Palace mulls letting US soldiers go after Abus

STORY ON PAGE A2

A graduate, finally

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LOS ANGELES—For a college dropout, the kid did good—but to his way of thinking, not good enough.

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A GRADUATE/ A17

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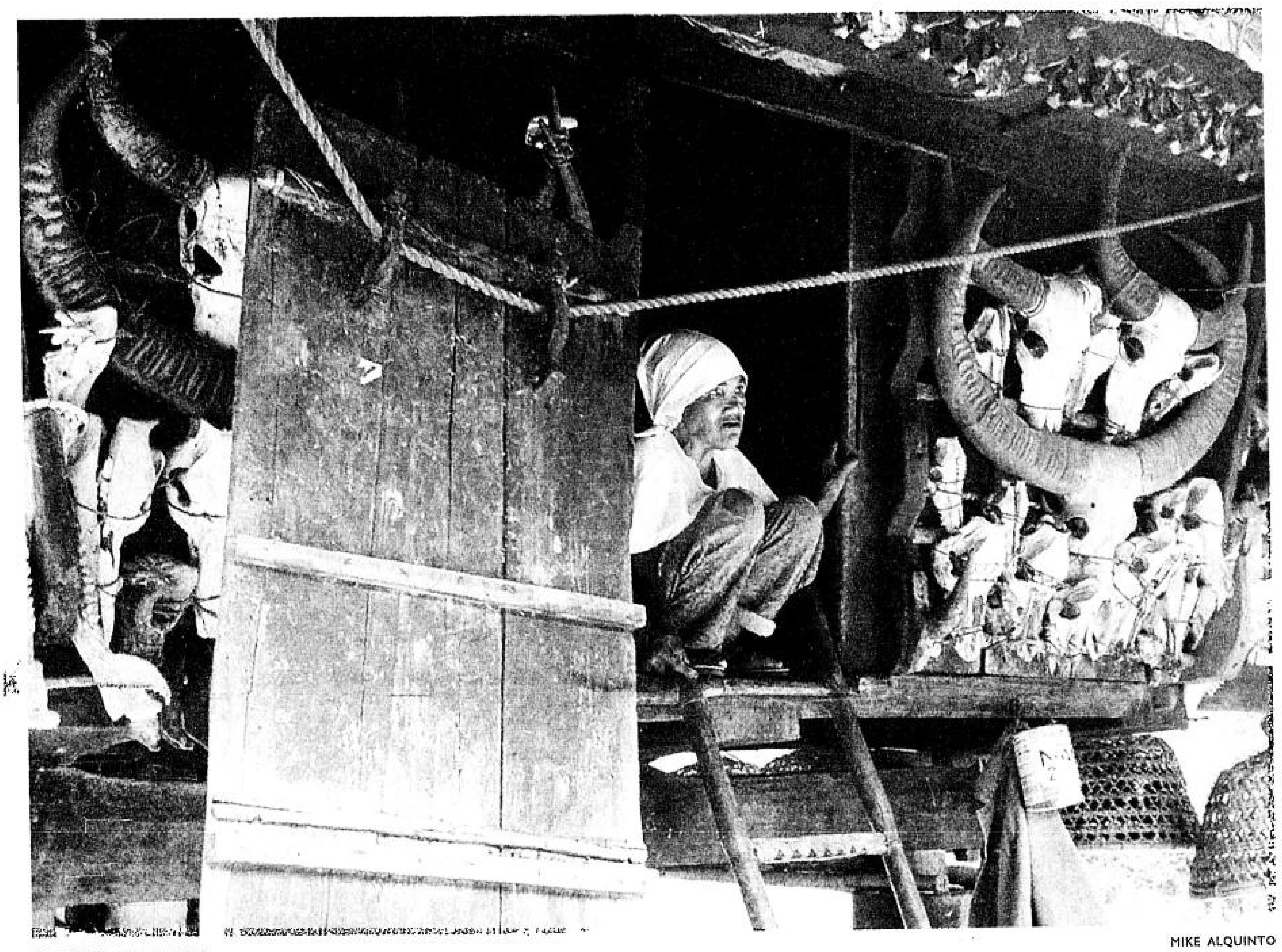
'Cops killed my son'

Gunshot wound in chest caused Dexter's death, says ma



MIKE ALQUINTO

FORGET-ME-NOTS
Old woman in Banaue has made veritable charms, souvenirs and welcome signs out of animal horns, skulls, and jaws, and hung them on either side of her front door. They are the remains of cows, carabaos, dogs and goats slaughtered for past neighborhood feasts.

By TJ Burgonio, Tonette Orejas, Jun Malig and Alcuin Papa

THE CHILD who died in a harrowing hostage-taking incident early Friday suffered not only five stab wounds but also four gunshot wounds, according to autopsy results.

Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, head of the National Capital Region Police Office, yesterday admitted that 4-year-old Dexter Balala had gunshot wounds in the chest and extremities. "These indicate that he was shot," Aglipay said, but declined to say if it was the shots fired by policemen that caused the boy's death.

But in San Fernando, Pampanga, Balala's mother Salvacion was categorical. "In the hospital, a doctor showed me a drawing of my son's body," she said in Filipino. "He had four stab wounds in the back and one in the nape. And he had one gunshot wound below the heart and two in the thigh. I think the shot below the heart killed my son."

Salvacion, 28, said she had been told by a doctor that her son died from the stab that pierced a lung, but that she had reasoned that the boy could still have survived had policemen rescued him on time.

Balala was seized at knifepoint by Diomedes Talvo at 1:30 a.m. Friday at the Philtranco bus terminal in Pasay City and held hostage for two hours. The shocking standoff ended in a hail of bullets that killed Talvo, who had repeat

COPS/ A18

Hostage taker: Family man with family problem

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN MATEO, Isabela—Diomedes Talvo, 37, left the remote barangay of Villa Cruz on Thursday with P9,000 in his pocket and a family problem on his mind.

By Friday he was dead at the Philtranco bus terminal in Pasay City, shot down by lawmen after he repeatedly stabbed a child he had held hostage for hours.

Shock gripped most of the residents of the village more than 80 kilometers from the capital town of Ilagan when they saw on live TV one of their own stabbing a

HOSTAGE/ A18

Lopez: Meralco not for sale at any price

LOPEZ: Not for all the money in the world.

By Raul C. Dancel

NOT all the money in the world will induce the Lopez family to give up the Manila Electric Co., the crown jewel of the Lopez Group's media, power, water services and property empire.

"We survived martial law. We'll survive this," Meralco chair and CEO Manolo Lopez said at a meeting with INQUIRER editors last Thursday.

Lopez said there was no reason for the Lopezes to sell out.

"We have not done anything not in accordance with the regulations," he said.

The Lopezes lost control of the country's biggest electricity distributor when the martial law government of Ferdinand Marcos took over the company, but recovered it during the post-Edsa Aquino administration.

However, the family has lately been under increasingly severe criticism from an irate public over the steep rise in the electricity rates being charged by Meralco.

Last week, 38 House legislators proposed that the government take over Meralco "after payment of just compensation" to the Lopez family.

Lopez said, however, that there was no "just compensation" that would make his family give up Meralco.

The family is in Meralco not for the money but out of a "sense of mission," he said.

The Lopezes own a combined 29.81 percent out of Meralco's 995.7 million shares.

Based on Meralco's closing price on Fri-

LOPEZ/ A17

BACK TO SCHOOL

Abu Sayyaf children get new chance at life

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Seven boys, all former members of the Abu Sayyaf, are getting a new chance at life.

On Monday, the children—whose ages range from 7 to 15—are enrolling in elementary and high schools here upon the suggestion of the Philippine Army.

"*O, mag-aaral na kayo ngayong pasukan, ha*? (You'll resume your studies this school year, right?)" Capt. CJ Paulo Perez, an official of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade, had told the boys.

His announcement was greeted with much enthusiasm. The boys jumped, sang and danced.

"*Mag-iskul na kita* (We're going to school)," Otto chanted in Yakan, a local dialect.

"*Totoo ka*, sir (Is that true, sir)?" 14-year-old Abdul repeatedly asked Perez at the provincial social welfare office here.

Abdul should already have been in high school had he not been lured into the bandit group.

"*OK ka*, Sir Tiny. Idol *talaga kita* (You're OK, Sir Tiny. You're my idol)," 15-year-old Kiram told Perez.

Perez told the INQUIRER that based on his interviews with the young Abu Sayyaf members, poverty was their main reason for joining the bandit group.

"They were forced to drop out from school and join the Abu Sayyaf because they were poor," he said.

Over the weekend, Perez and the seven boys were busy buying school supplies with the help of a church-based organization.

Perez said he could not contain his laughter when he saw what kind of notebooks the children picked.

"They wanted notebooks that had

ABU SAYYAF/ A18

JOAN BONDOC

FASHION FORECAST
Now that they've started wearing earrings, what's to stop men from going all the way . . . back to when they also donned feathered headgear and layers of beads. But what's with the ax? Taken during Makati Day celebration yesterday on Ayala Avenue.

Second FRONT PAGE

AYAN, PASPASAN NA!

Palace mulls letting US go after Abus

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and TJ Burgonio

MALACAÑANG will let the military consider a reported proposal by the United States to have American forces in Basilan join pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said yesterday President Macapagal-Arroyo was not blocking the idea at the moment.

He said the government will let any recommendations from the US "go through the proper channels."

Afable's statement came on the eve of the arrival in the country of US Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, who is set to meet with President Macapagal and local officials on the global war against terrorism.

Wolfowitz, who will be accompanied by a high-level Pentagon staff, will call on the President, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu during his two-day working visit, the defense department said in a statement.

Wolfowitz is also expected to discuss the Balikatan 02-1 joint military exercises under which at least 1,000 American troops are currently training Filipino troops in Mindanao in anti-terrorism techniques.

Wolfowitz's government career began during the administration of President Ronald Reagan. He has served as ambassador to Indonesia, assistant secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and defense undersecretary for policy at the Pentagon.

But while Wolfowitz is arriving, it was not known if he would meet up with Rep. Dana Rohrabacher of California who was in Basilan yesterday.

Rohrabacher, a strong supporter of US assistance to the Philippines, arrived in the island province at 7:20 a.m. on board a Cebu Pacific flight from Manila.

US military officials said the solon's visit had nothing to do with the $5 million bounty offered by the US for the capture of Abu Sayyaf leaders, but that he was only visiting American troops deployed in Basilan.

He was also set to inspect the projects being undertaken by American Seabees in Basilan.

In a brief meeting with reporters, Rohrabacher said he was impressed with developments in the island province and the cooperation between the US and the Philippines against terrorism.

But then he made a surprising statement. Rohrabacher said the cooperation between the US and the Philippines was aimed not only at international terrorism, but against China as well.

"This will have a profound long-term implication on the security of the Philippines and the United States. This sends a message to the communist Chinese and to terrorists throughout the world that the US does not take the Philippines for granted," he said.

The statement is sure to raise eyebrows because the US has been doing everything in recent years to court China's cooperation in many fields.

Rohrabacher, however, did not hide his impatience over the situation of American hostages Martin and Gracia Burnham.

"I and the American people would be satisfied if these US citizens are released and the terrorist brought to justice," he said.

Afable said the terms of reference (TOR) for the joint Balikatan 02-1 military exercise prohibits US troops from engaging in combat during the six-month training period.

"As far as the President is concerned, she wants the TOR to be adhered to. If there are any revisions or amendments that are desired, she'll leave it up to the people involved to recommend this," he told reporters yesterday.

When asked if Malacañang would block the proposal to allow US troops to go after the Abu Sayyaf, Afable said: "The President does not concern herself with that. She just wants strict adherence to the TOR at this time."

The US Pentagon is reportedly debating a recommendation by Admiral Thomas Fargo, commander of the US forces in the Pacific, to move US military advisers already in Basilan closer to the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf and the hostages they are holding, including Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap.

Fargo reportedly recommended that US Special Forces or Green Berets train Filipino troops at the company level, a move that would allow the Americans to accompany Filipino soldiers on patrol.

US defense officials are reportedly also thinking of sending between 50 and 60 more troops on top of the nearly 1,000 American soldiers already in Basilan and Zamboanga.

The Balikatan 02-1 exercise, which allowed the US to deploy troops in Mindanao to train and advise Filipino troops in counterterrorism, will end on July 31.

Since the start of the exercise in January, US soldiers have confined their participation to training Filipino troops.

They remain behind at military headquarters in Basilan while the Filipino soldiers hunt the Abu Sayyaf. ***With Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

US should get RP approval on $5-M reward, Ople insists

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE $5 million bounty offer of the United States for the capture of five top Abu Sayyaf leaders requires the "endorsement, concurrence or approval" of the Philippine government, opposition Sen. Blas Ople said yesterday.

Ople, who chairs the Senate foreign relations committee, said that under the Visiting Forces Agreement and the terms of reference for the ongoing joint Balikatan military exercises with the US, every activity must be approved by the government.

"While the US 'Rewards for Justice' program is a global program against terrorism, its application in the Philippines must be subject to the approval or endorsement of the Philippine government," the senator said.

Ople said that if the US does not first seek the approval of the Philippine government, its bounty offer could be construed as an insensitive act that glosses over Philippine sovereignty.

He said the US offer was actually merely following an already existing program of the Philippine government, which had placed prices on the heads of the Abu Sayyaf rebels.

The only difference was that the US dollar is a more powerful incentive, he said.

Ople said that under the VFA, either President Macapagal-Arroyo or Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona could approve the application of the "Rewards for Justice" program in the Philippines.

While he hoped that the US reward offer would help to get the Abu Sayyaf leaders, Ople insisted that the most effective way to crush the terrorist group was through professional intelligence work.

"We are at the mercy of the Abu Sayyaf because we have a weak intelligence system," the senator said.

He called for an overhaul of the government's intelligence-gathering apparatus and the improvement of its information-gathering and processing system.

"A successful military operation usually follows good intelligence work," he said.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, meanwhile, said Guingona should stop complaining about being consistently bypassed on certain sensitive issues involving the country's relations with the US.

Guingona had complained of the US Embassy's failure to consult the foreign affairs department on the $5 million reward offer.

"Vice President Guingona should decide now. Should he continue to endure this humiliation or should he quit as foreign affairs chief to show that he cannot be taken for granted?" Oreta said.

She said it should be clear to Guingona that he was taken out of the chain of authority consulted on sensitive matters involving Washington after he had earlier expressed strong misgivings about the Balikatan war exercises.

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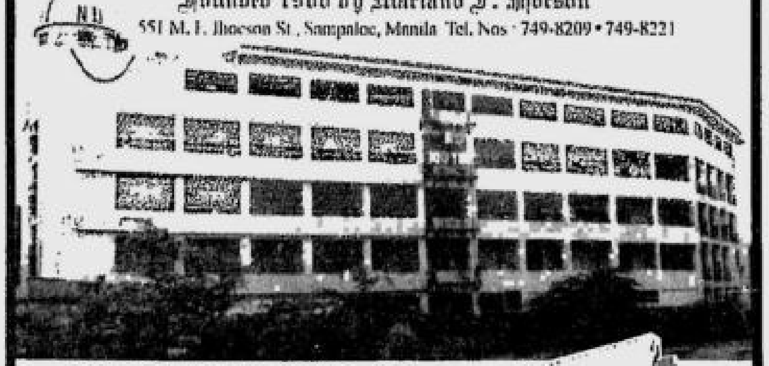

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15M Filipino kids malnourished, study shows

By Cynthia D. Balana

A TOTAL of 15.6 million Filipino children are malnourished, an increase of 2.6 percent from the 13.16 million malnourished and underweight children in 1996, a study by the congressional oversight committee on food and agriculture modernization (COCAFM) said.

This dismal report card on rural poverty will be carried by the country's delegation to the World Food Summit in Rome this month.

"This is indeed very alarming and points out the need to increase the country's food production to meet the needs of our population," said Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar, who chairs the COCAFM.

Villar pointed out that the country's annual average population growth of 2.36 percent in the 1990s has surpassed agricultural farm productivity growth which stood at a mere 2.16 percent.

He said there was a need to apply modern technology to food production in order to feed the Philippines' growing population.

Villar cited other Asian countries like Thailand and China, which have relatively strong farm sectors capable of providing enough food for their populations.

"We need to work together to bolster our agricultural sector through needed legislation as well as the implementation of existing food programs," he said.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said malnutrition was basically a rural phenomenon marked by the lack of access to proper food.

Three of every four poor Filipinos are in the rural areas, he said.

The senator, a former agriculture secretary, said that massive rural poverty was a direct result of the underdevelopment of the agriculture sector.

The key strategy to solving malnutrition was agricultural development, he said.

Unfortunately, agriculture did not get enough funding from the national government, Angara said.

He accused the Macapagal administration of not providing the funds to combat malnutrition and support agriculture.

He reminded the government of its promise during the 1996 World Food Summit to reduce the number of malnourished children in the country to 10.4 million. "What happened was the reverse," he said.

"We can only report a failing grade, a dismal report. Instead of reporting great strides in poverty alleviation, in fighting child malnutrition, we can only say that we are back to (the) grim, sorry environment of grinding poverty and the increasing number of malnourished children," he said.

Angara claimed that while Congress has been supportive of agricultural modernization, the executive branch has not been doing the complementary work of prioritizing funding for modernization programs.

"There is no substantial investment in research and development, which is the single, most cost-efficient investment in the agricultural sector," he said.

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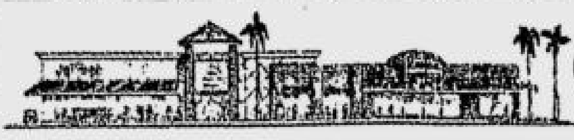

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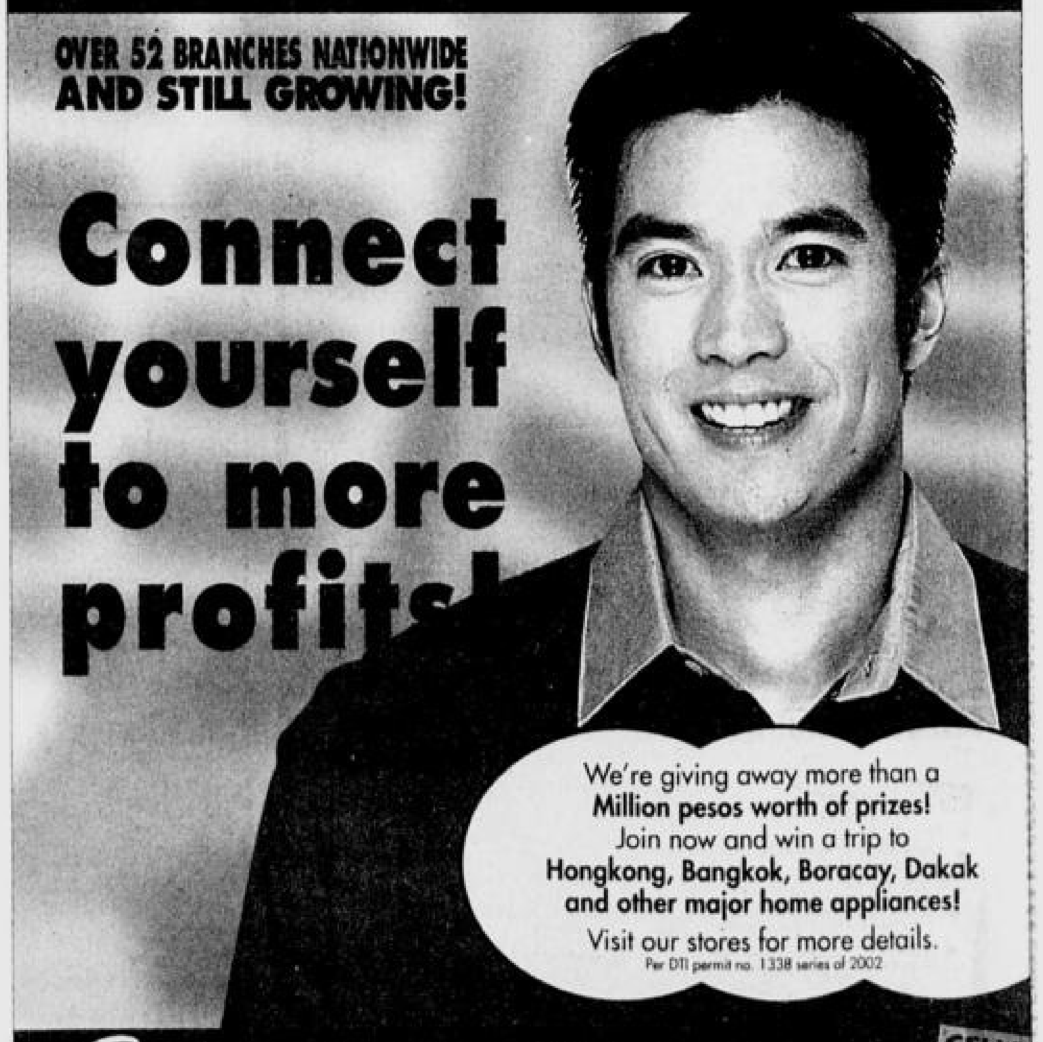
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Camacho doing 'squeeze job' on Tan, says Oreta

By Cynthia D. Balana

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is doing a "squeeze job on businessman Lucio Tan in connection with the proposed government takeover of Philippine Airlines, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said yesterday.

The opposition senator accused Camacho of duplicity for his conflicting statements on the issue.

"Secretary Camacho's claim that the government has no intention at the moment of re-nationalizing PAL while saying in the next breath that it can raise the money to buy out Tan... is the height of duplicity," she said.

Oreta said that statements such as this appear to be sending a message to Tan to behave, if not kowtow to the Palace, or the government would push through with the takeover.

"If it doesn't sound like a squeeze job on Tan, I don't know what it is," she said.

On Thursday, President Macapagal-Arroyo directed the finance secretary to study the government takeover plan.

Camacho had said the President's statement was "premature" although he was also quoted in media reports as saying the government could move to re-nationalize PAL if it wanted to.

This, she said, indicated that a hostile takeover of the national flag carrier now hangs like a "sword of Damocles" over Tan's head.

Oreta noted that Tan was a staunch supporter of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Senate minority leader Aquilino Pimentel said the takeover of PAL was the wrong prescription for the ailing tourism industry.

Pimentel said it was the country's law and order problems and not the lack of an open skies policy that had slowed the tourist influx.

"Tourists will not come as long as the kidnapping menace remains and the country is perceived abroad as being unsafe," Pimentel said.

"The liberalization of the airline industry will not bring in hordes of tourists if we cannot improve the law and order situation," he said.

Pimentel also described the planned government buyback of controlling shares in PAL as a step backward, which could only spoil the airline's rehabilitation.

"Although I have a number of complaints about PAL, it is not advisable to put the national flag carrier back in government hands. This may only cause losses and more corruption," he said.

Avelino Zapanta, PAL president, had said that implementing an "open skies" policy in the country was not advisable at this time since it would kill the local airline industry. He said local airlines need time to grow.

Erap's 'girl Friday' runs to Loi for help

By Volt Contreras

WITH STATE prosecutors set to include her tomorrow in the plunder case against Joseph Estrada, the former President's "girl Friday" has run to his wife, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, for help in hiring a lawyer.

Estrada spokesperson Raymond Fortun said Lucena "Baby" Ortaliza contacted the senator Friday night after learning she would be charged along with the ousted President.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto announced Friday Ortaliza will be the 10th respondent in the plunder case after she publicly admitted running banking errands for Estrada and businessman Jaime Dichaves using the "Jose Velarde" account.

Fortun denounced Ortaliza's inclusion in the charge sheet as "cruel and cold-hearted."

"She is being punished for ruining the prosecutors' line that she was the strongest link in proving that Estrada was Jose Velarde," Fortun said in an interview.

He said Ortaliza "destroyed their theory" when she maintained in press interviews last week that the Jose Velarde account at Equitable-PCIBank really belonged to Estrada's crony, Dichaves.

Presented to the media by the Estrada camp, Ortaliza claimed she was hired by Dichaves to run banking errands for him even when she was part of Estrada's household staff.

Without a lawyer assisting her then, Ortaliza told of seeing Dichaves sign the name "Jose Velarde" to open the controversial account at EPCIB's Binondo branch.

The INQUIRER learned that Ortaliza had been originally hired by Ejercito. Both hail from Zambales province.

Ortaliza, who started working for the family when Estrada was vice president, is now employed at the Estrada-owned Jelp Realty.

Assistant Ombudsman Dennis Villa-Ignacio said Ortaliza was apparently "not properly advised when she surfaced and made that admission before the media."

Prosecutors, he said, were still giving her "the benefit of the doubt" when witnesses began mentioning her name.

"But when she came out on TV to confirm what was said about her in court, we had no choice (but) to charge (her) just like anyone found to have actively participated (in the alleged plunder)," Villa-Ignacio said.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Conviction can never be based on hearsay evidence—The settled rule is that conviction can never be based on hearsay evidence. Any oral or documentary evidence is hearsay by nature if its probative value is not based on the personal knowledge of the witness but on the knowledge of some other person who was never presented on the witness stand. Section 36, Rule 130 of the Rules of Court provides that a witness can only testify to those facts that he knows of his personal knowledge, otherwise, such testimony is inadmissible for being hearsay. The underlying reasons for this rule are: (1) to afford the judge the opportunity of observing the demeanor of the witness, and (2) to allow the adverse party a chance of cross-examining the witness. The witness' testimony recalling his co-witness' statement merely proves the fact that such statement was made or the tenor of such statement, but it does not establish the truth of the fact asserted in the statement. The co-witness should have been presented in court to prove the truth of the matter surrounding appellant's alleged involvement in the crime. This would have afforded appellant his constitutional right of confrontation, or to meet the witness against him face-to-face. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Carpio, Third Division, People v. Canlas, G.R. No. 141633, December 14, 2001]

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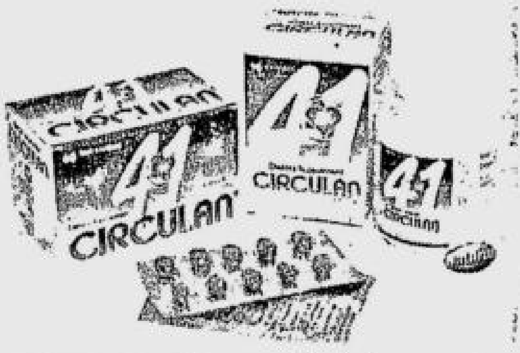

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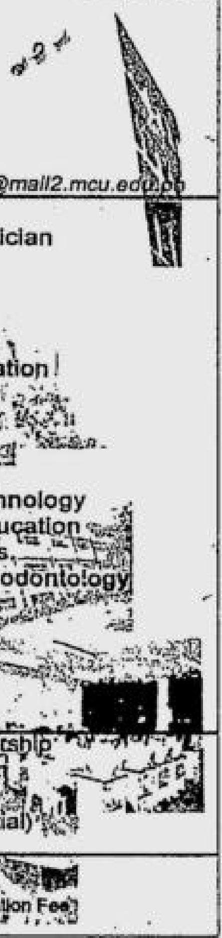

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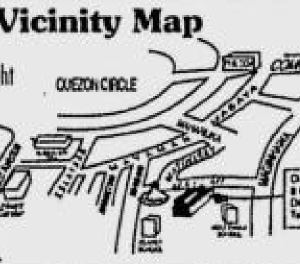

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Cebu customs official sacked

CEBU CITY—The Cebu Customs Office went through a major shakeup Friday with the sudden relief of Customs collector Tuan Tan amid complaints of inefficiency in the port's operations.

Commissioner Antonio Bernardo arrived here in a surprise visit to relieve Tan from his post. Former police official Billy Bibit, currently Customs collector at the Subic Bay Freeport, will replace Tan. Collector Rommel Corro of Surigao will replace Bibit at Subic.

Bernardo also ordered an immediate inventory of millions of pesos worth of seized goods lying idle at the Cebu Customs warehouse.

Tan's sudden relief stirred talk about "meddling politicians and government officials," even as Bernardo insisted his relief was a "purely management decision" because he needed somebody to perk up slumping collections at the Cebu port.

"We want to try Bibit because we had very good collections when he was at Subic," Bernardo said.

It was not known when Bibit would take over the Cebu Customs office.

Bernardo said Tan would be assigned to the Office of the Commissioner in Manila.

"I want to try a new team because Cebu had the biggest shortfall in percentage targets," the commissioner said. ***Jolene Bulambot and Joy Dungo, PDI Visayas Bureau***

OFWs shift their focus in Saudi Arabia

By Blanche S. Rivera

ON TOP of the much-missed fried *uga*, *bakareta* and *adobado*, overseas Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia recently served up a feast to boost trade and tourism on their native Panay island.

The workers, all from Antique, Aklan, Iloilo, Capiz and Guimaras provinces, brought their hometowns to Saudi with "Explore Panay," a trade and cultural festival designed to entice their employers and other entrepreneurs to visit the region and invest in its industries.

Described by the Saudi Gazette as a "grand success," Explore Panay was the first project of its kind to be launched by Filipino migrant workers.

The organizers, mostly engineers and information technology experts in Riyadh, have since formed the Madja-as Federation, named after the mountain bordering Aklan and Antique.

Explore Panay presented the opportunities in the islands in trade, tourism, education, employment and investments and at the same time launched a Website that tackled each element in depth.

In a concept paper, members of the group said they have resolved to walk away from their traditional role as mere remitters of foreign exchange, and becom active investors in goodwill.

Explore Panay started as a plan of The Ilonggos in Saudi Arabia (TISA) to present to the Filipino community in Riyadh a program of traditional songs and dances from the islands, called Festejos de los Ilonggos.

Eventually opting for a bigger pioneering scheme, TISA, assisted by the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, sought out all Panay natives in Riyadh who might want to help. Several groups and individuals eagerly responded.

Francis Maca, TISA adviser and chair of the project's steering committee, was sent to the Philippines to attend a Panay-wide planning workshop.

The Department of Trade and Industry promised to send over indigenous products for the trade exhibit, but failed to deliver.

TISA president Paul Cuello flew in to follow up with the DTI. He ended up buying a few products from the markets in Iloilo and Manila.

The organizers worked double-time to raise the necessary funds. Two big Saudi companies—Saudi Oger and Al Foadia—came across with financial support, and individual OFWs pitched in. The souvenir program and food festival also turned out to be good sources of revenue.

In the end, the event, held at the chancery of the Philippine Embassy, was worth all the effort. The Ati-Atihan and program of traditional songs and dances performed by Filipino students from the international schools in Riyadh, was a big hit.

At present the organizers are looking for sponsors to underwrite the maintenance cost for the Website, www.explorepanay.com. They are looking at the possibility of starting an OFW chat room.

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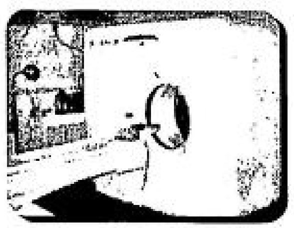

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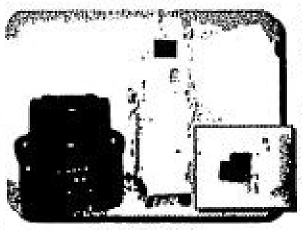

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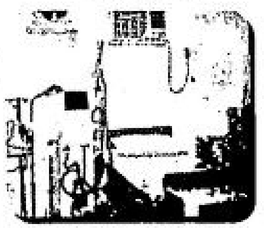

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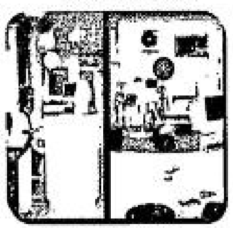

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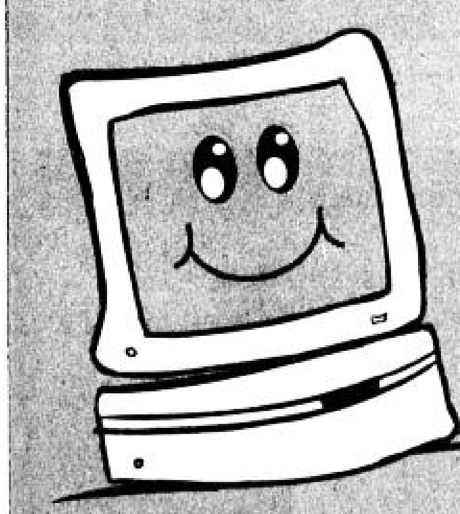

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4 Comelec commissioners question Benipayo travels

THE COMMISSION on Audit has been asked to conduct a special audit at the Commission on Elections after four Comelec commissioners reported that Chairman Alfredo Benipayo had gone on two trips abroad without the proper travel authority.

Benipayo and two other Comelec officials allegedly spent P2.54 million in Comelec funds to accompany legislators to Asia, Europe and the United States for the hearings on the pending Absentee Voting bill for overseas Filipinos.

The Comelec chair will be asked to give an explanation for his failure to seek the proper clearance from the en banc commission before leaving for official business abroad.

The four commissioners said documents showed that Benipayo had traveled without a formal invitation from the lawmakers and that, departing from the official itinerary, Benipayo took an eight-day side trip to London to visit one of his children there.

In a letter sent on May 28 to Antonio Magsanay, COA resident auditor at the Comelec, Commissioners Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion, Mehol Sadain, and Luzviminda Tancangco revealed that Benipayo and Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. broke government rules by failing to secure the proper travel authorities from the en banc before they left.

The four commissioners said Benipayo and Tuason broke the rules under the Government Accounting and Auditing Manual which require officials leaving for abroad to support their cash advances with an authority to travel, travel itinerary, and authority from the Office of the President for representation allowance. The Comelec itself requires all officials to secure the requisite travel authority from the en banc before going abroad, the four commissioners said.

"It is a known fact, and the records will bear out that no travel authority from the Commission En Banc was secured for the foregoing trips, hence making them, in plain and simple language, unauthorized, and the cash advances granted in connection with this trip unlawful," the commissioners said in their letter.

The Comelec records showed that Benipayo, his executive assistant James Jimenez, and Tuason went to Hong Kong and Japan from Feb. 20 to 27, spending P855,013.35 in Comelec funds. They also went to Rome, Italy and to New York City and Los Angeles in the US from March 19 to April 7 at the cost of P1.693 million.

The expenses for Benipayo were for business class plane fare, per diem, hotel room, and clothing allowance and representation. However, his itinerary included an eight-day sidetrip to London from March 23 to 30 to visit one of his children.

Earlier, the four commissioners had condemned Benipayo's travel while the Comelec was feverishly preparing for the upcoming barangay and youth elections in July.

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TEVES and Secretary Braganza during the congressional hearing. ERIC ARAZAS

2 DAR execs under fire for Teves arrest

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza has vowed to dismiss the agrarian reform officials responsible for an allegedly anomalous agreement that led to the arrest of Land Bank President Margarito Teves last week.

Braganza said he would dismiss Napoleon Baguilat, provincial agrarian reform adjudication board officer (Parab) of Nueva Ecija, and legal officer Benjamin Baul if they are found guilty of giving favored treatment to the landowner.

Braganza made the statement during the joint hearing on Friday of two House committees—on agrarian reform and on justice—on the circumstances that led to the arrest of Teves.

Rep. Gregorio T. Ipong and Rep. Marcelo Libanan chair the agrarian reform and justice committees, respectively.

Braganza accused Baguilat and Baul of bypassing him in entering into a highly disadvantageous agreement with the landowner, former Court of Appeals Justice Fernando Santiago.

The department recently created a special committee, headed by Assistant Secretary Ruel Garcia, to investigate the allegedly anomalous land valuation of a 53-hectare agricultural land owned by Santiago in Barangay Bangad, Cabanatuan City.

Braganza reported in the two committee that he already directed a five-man special committee to come up with a final report of the investigation on Baguilat for formalizing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) without his knowledge and consent.

"This is seriously being looked into by a special committee," he said.

The MOU was used as the basis of the land valuation of Santiago's rice land assessed at P1.4 million per hectare. The land's total value was originally placed at P3 million only.

Garcia, however, said Presidential Decree No. 27 stipulates a lower valuation of rice or corn lands at P5,000 per hectare.

Braganza also instructed Garcia to submit a report on the legality of the commitment order that led to the arrest of Teves on May 20.

"There are two important issues now. What led to the arrest of Teves? Who crafted the MOU?" he asked during the house committee hearing on Thursday.

He said Baguilat and Baul did not have the legal personality to finalize an agreement or resolution without his approval, adding he is the chairman of Parabs and Darab.

"All agreements or resolutions of the central and provincial adjudication boards are subject to my scrutiny for review," he said.

Baguilat also penned a commitment order and ordered the arrest of Teves for contempt of court without informing Braganza.

"Our findings showed Baguilat released the commitment order in the morning of May 20. The arrest was enforced in the afternoon of that same day," Garcia said.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, June 2, 2002
Body & Blood of Christ

1st Reading: **Dt 8:2-3, 14-16**

Moses said to the people, "Remember how Yahweh, your God, brought you through the desert for forty years. He humbled you, to test you and know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. He made you experience want, he made you experience hunger, but he gave you manna to eat which neither you nor your fathers had known, to show you that man lives not on bread alone, but that all that proceeds from the mouth of God is life for man.

Then do not let your heart become proud and do not forget Yahweh, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery. It is he who has led you across this great and terrible desert, full of fiery serpents and scorpions, an arid land where there is no water. But for you he made water gush forth from the hardest rock. And he fed you in the desert with manna which your fathers did not know."

2nd Reading: **1 Cor 10:16-17**

Brothers and sisters, the cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion with the blood of Christ? And the bread that we break, is it not a communion with the body of Christ? The bread is one, and so we, though many, form one body, sharing the one bread.

Gospel: **Jn 6:51-58**

Jesus said to the crowds, "I am the living *bread which has come from heaven;* whoever eats of this bread will live forever. The bread I shall give is my flesh and I will give it for the life of the world."

The Jews were arguing among themselves, "How can this man give us flesh to eat?" So Jesus replied, "Truly, I say to you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood live with eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.

My flesh is really food and my blood is drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood, live in me and I in them. Just as the Father, who is life, sent me and I have life from the Father, so whoever eats me will have life from me. This is the *bread which came from heaven;* unlike that of your ancestors, who ate and later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

Commentary

Jesus gives us his body and blood in the form of bread and wine in the celebration of the eucharist. And we receive him in communion. But what happens to Christ's body and blood? Do the bread and wine of his sacramental presence just get digested in and excreted by our system?

We say "Amen" as we receive his body; we accept to let him take flesh in us, that we be his body and blood in the world. Every Christian who receives communion also accepts the invitation to communicate the Lord to others. From his sacramental presence in the form of bread and wine, we become the living "sacrament" of his love in the world. We become "the bread" and "the wine" for our sisters and brothers as they share in our daily life.

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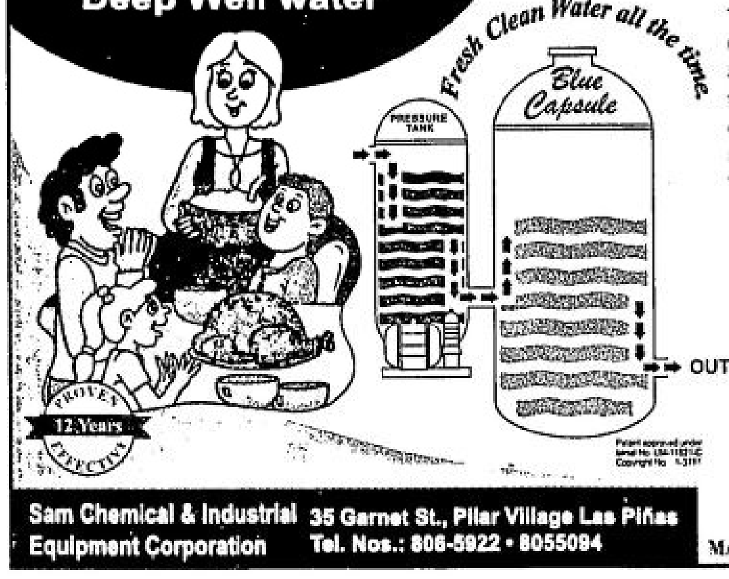

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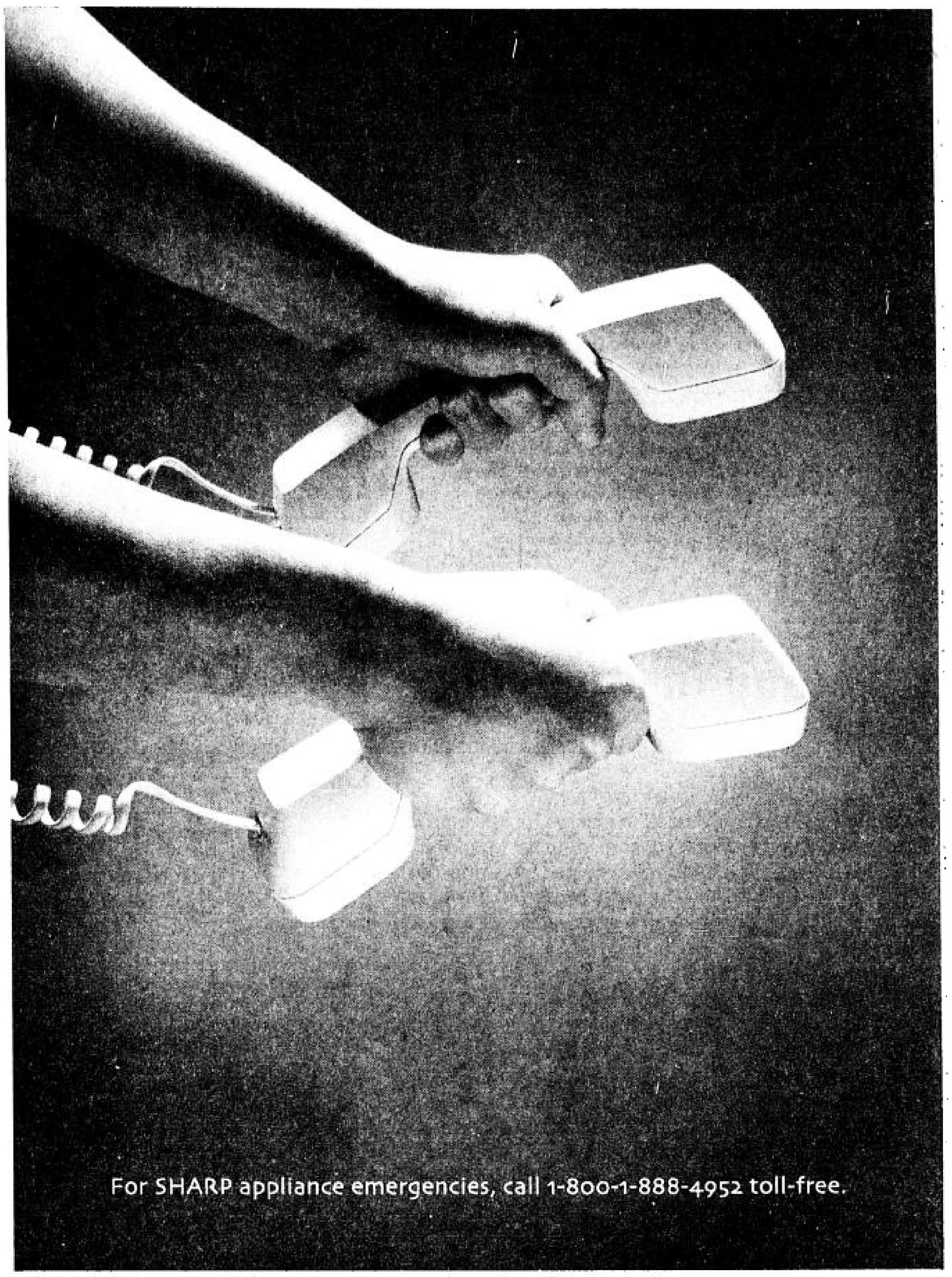
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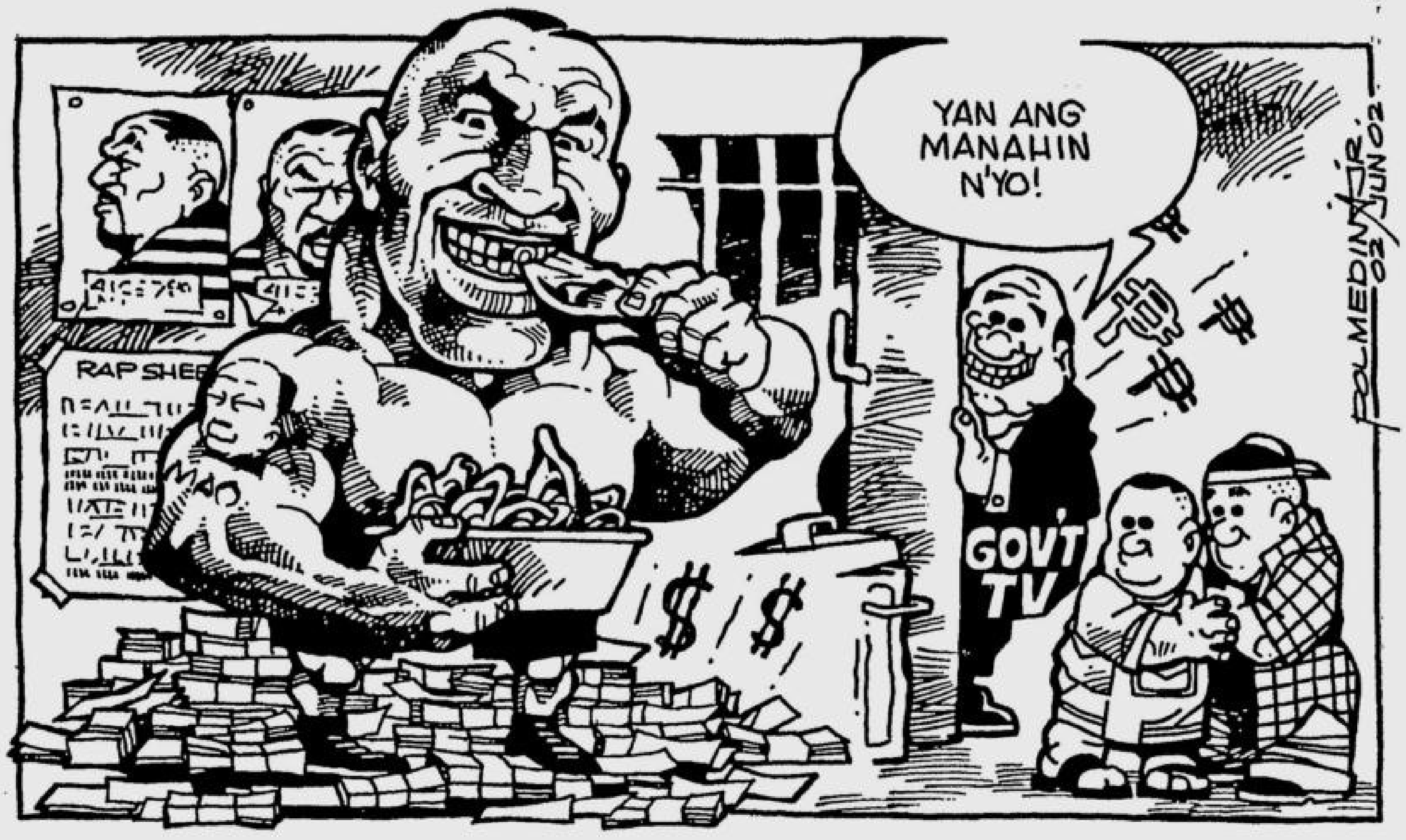

Mixed-up in Memphis

EDITORIAL

WHY is the government TV network in bed with a convicted rapist?

The National Broadcasting Network has been trumpeting its upcoming "live" coverage of the June 8 world heavyweight championship fight in Memphis, Tennessee, between champion Lennox Lewis and the controversial Mike Tyson. The fight is destined to be a moneymaker, even for local carriers whose commercial loads mock the true meaning of real time, but is that enough reason for the government network to carry it?

Convicted of rape in 1990 and released from prison in 1996, Tyson went back to jail in 1999 for assaulting motorists the previous year. He was released after a short spell, but today he faces yet another rape charge. Wildly unpredictable in public, he bit off Evander Holyfield's ear in one fight, tried to break Frank Botha's arm during a clinch in another bout, punched referee John Coyle in another fight and—during a news conference for the Lewis-Tyson title match—bit Lewis' leg in a melee he had started. He has a history of abusing women (including a former spouse) and a parallel history of blaming his behavior on his upbringing—or the lack of it.

Early last month, at a news conference in Maui, Hawaii, where he has been training, Tyson once again showed the world why his behavior can only be called psychopathic. (An excellent report can be found on the ESPN website.) He started by answering a female reporter's question obscenely. "I normally don't do interviews with women unless I fornicate with them. So you shouldn't talk anymore...Unless you want to, you know."

Talking about journalists in general, he said: "I wish that you guys had children so I could kick them in the (expletive) head or stomp on their testicles so you could feel my pain because that's the pain I have waking up every day."

Lashing out at what he said was a society full of hypocrites, he said: "I'm just like you. I enjoy the forbidden fruits in life, too. I think it's un-American not to go out with a woman, not to be with a beautiful woman, not to get my (expletive) sucked..."

But perhaps his most revealing answer came in reply to a question about his role in boxing history. (He is bidding to win the championship for the third time.) His reply: "It's interesting that you put me in the league with those illustrious fighters, but I've proved since my career (that) I've surpassed them as far (as) my popularity. I'm the biggest fighter in the history of the sport. If you don't believe it, check the cash register."

And that, of course, is precisely what the newly renamed NBN has done. They checked the cash register, and liked the sound they heard. This is not the time to discuss whether the government even ought to be in the television business, or whether the government network ought to dedicate much of its programming to sports. This much is certain: The Constitution declares as a matter of state policy that sports—like education, science and technology, arts and culture—must enjoy "priority" because of what it can do to "foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development."

It is hard to see how the continuing patronage of the psychopathic Tyson can do any of that.

After the melee in January between the Tyson and Lewis camps, the state of Nevada decided not to reissue Tyson's boxing license. That meant that Las Vegas, the gambling capital and boxing Mecca, would no longer host the hundred-million dollar fight. "Nobody wanted this fight more than me," Nevada's sports commissioner Tony Alamo said after the decision. "Unfortunately his actions, his lack of control, put us in this position."

It is difficult to find one's moral bearings in an issue when the so-called sin city of Las Vegas has become the moral high ground. The World Boxing Council's Jose Sulaiman, for example, "is adamant that there is no moral reason which should prevent" the bout from taking place, the BBC reported the other day. "We believe this is the fight the world wants to see, and no politician or vested interest should be superior to the wishes of the people of the world who love boxing."

Sulaiman is mistaken. Those who truly love boxing know that Tyson does not belong in the ring anymore, but in a straightjacket, or back behind bars.

Education then and now

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT seems almost like a century ago, but when I started schooling during the 1930s, education was simpler and much cheaper than it is now. There were only three levels of schools then: elementary, secondary and collegiate. The expenses for the entire process, that is, from Grade One to college graduation, were equivalent to what some parents now pay in tuition fees for their children's "pre-schooling."

I will speak here of public education for it was generally much better than private education before. The feeling then was that a child went to a private school only if he could not make it in a public school. The latter's standards were higher and its fees were lower. Public schools did not charge tuition fees but only matriculation fees representing the nominal cost of our admission and registration. This was true up to high school. And we didn't have to buy our textbooks either; we rented them for a token amount and returned them after each semester for use by the succeeding classes.

Children were admitted to Grade One at age 7 without having to pass through nursery, kindergarten and preparatory, as now required by most private schools. A birth certificate was required to prove the child's age but if it was not available, he was admitted just the same if he could touch his left ear with his right hand over his head. The schools were clean, with polished floors and shiny doorknobs. The lady teachers wore modest dresses and the men white drill coat and tie. They were all good and mostly strict. Exceptional students were "accelerated," i.e., skipped through the next grade, sometimes more than once.

I enjoyed my high schooling most because most of us remained in the same section through all the four years and developed fast friendships. Re-classification was based on performance, to be indicated in the report cards that were mailed to us during the summer vacation. We awaited those cards anxiously because it was a point of honor to be retained in the premier section and a humiliation to be assigned to a lower one. Once we were assured that we would not be demoted, the rest of our vacation would be carefree.

The books we studied were quite interesting and, looking back, I wish we could have bought and kept some of them. I particularly remember one volume appropriately titled "Modern Times and the Living Past" that sharpened my interest in history. There was also a series called "English and American Writers" that we studied over several years and gave us a sampling of literature at its best. By some stroke of luck, I found a tattered copy some years ago that I now cherish as a priceless possession. And, of course, there was that tedious "Silas Marner" by George Eliot that everybody hated but could not avoid because it was "required reading."

College life was different because discipline was stricter and relations less lasting. Students did not always attend the same classes together; moreover, many of them had become more responsible, some already working and married. The halcyon days were over, but the rest of us still managed a few escapades now and then. We became increasingly serious as graduation time drew near and, later for us in law school, as we reviewed for the bar examinations. Formal schooling ended for most of us while those with money or fellowships pursued post-graduate degrees abroad.

With the deterioration of the public school system, many families, including those that can hardly afford it, are now sending their children to private schools, where the fees are prohibitive and sometimes unconscionable. The current practice of requiring completion of the supposed preparatory courses before a student can qualify for grade school tightens the parents' budget and, not incidentally, increases the income of the schools. This requirement is some sort of educational blackmail but the poor parents have to bite the bullet for their children's better education. Enrollment in the public schools is not an acceptable alternative.

The justification of the private schools for their excessive fees is that they provide quality education for their students in the form of a competent teaching staff, better physical facilities, modern teaching equipment, a more wholesome environment, and other benefits not available in the less costly schools. Despite all these advantages, however, there is still need for a closer regulation of the operations of private schools, with particular focus on the fees they charge that may border on abuse and cupidity. Like power and gas companies, private schools should not be allowed to hold the public captive with their unrestricted financial impositions.

It is true that in this highly technical age, there is much more to learn than we did many decades ago and teaching the new information has become correspondingly harder. Concededly, this task demands not only more skills but also more money. But that demand, however necessary it may be, should be subject to reasonable limits in the interest of the hard-pressed parents. In our time, we paid a matriculation fee of only P2 and a voluntary contribution of 30 centavos to the Red Cross during the entire school-year. That is admittedly a Spartan standard, but it should serve as a moderating model to the private schools.

First, last and only

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a cannibal on his first plane ride. When the stewardess gave him the menu for the meal, it took him a long time to decide. Finally, he called the stewardess and said, "Miss, can I have the passengers' list instead?"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 6, 51-58), Jesus declares that He is the Living Bread, and that whoever eats His flesh and drinks His blood will have eternal life. The Jews who heard Him were scandalized because for them, this was plain and simple cannibalism. This guy was not only talking yucky, he was also talking crazy!

Note that many of His followers abandoned Jesus after His Bread of Life discourse. For them this was already going overboard. *Masyadong* too much *na*. *Sobrang* over *na siya*. And yet Jesus did not sell out nor cop out. He continued to tell what had to be told no matter what or who would get hurt in the process.

It is really admirable how Jesus held on to the truth without conditions. A far contrast from you and I who often handle truth with many conditions and qualifications. When it came to the truth, Jesus was unbending. *Tayo?* We go on vending.

* * *

The Eucharist is something we often take for granted because of the predominantly Christian milieu we live in. Not so in other countries. I have heard stories of our *kababayans* working overseas who, in their thirst for the Eucharist, would secretly play on VHS tapes the Mass on Sundays or who would clandestinely bring around to different Filipino groups a visiting priest to say Mass for them.

May we appreciate and love the Eucharist more and more. The Eucharist is there. Let's take it. Let's not take it for granted.

* * *

In my talks with priests who left the ministry, many of them confided to me that the Eucharist—the celebration of the Mass or the reception of Holy Communion—is something they terribly miss. Any priest, active or retired, good or bad, in ministry or out of ministry, will tell you that there's something in the Eucharist that cannot be explained. It is a power, a presence, a mystery, which only a priest can experience. My prayer is that we priests who stay on, in spite of who we are, unworthy as we are, may continue to love and be empowered by the Eucharist.

* * *

In the sacristy of our Mission House at Christ the King Seminary is this beautiful reminder: "O priest of Jesus Christ, celebrate this Mass as if it were your first, your last and your only Mass." I would encourage all of you, dear friends, to go to every Mass as if it were your first, your last and your only Mass.

* * *

As a little boy who preferred playing or watching TV instead of going to Mass on Sundays, I often bargained with Mama that I would just pray three rosaries at home, but her firm reply was always the same: "Jerry, not even 100 rosaries can equal the value of one Mass." I thank Mama for teaching me the value of the Eucharist at an early age.

Dear parents, are you teaching your children, by word and example, the value of the Mass?

* * *

If the Mass is the highest form of prayer, then let's pray it! Instead of "saying" Mass or "attending" a Mass, why don't we all pray the Mass? And pray it with the heart!

* * *

For 12 years now, I have been on Sunday TV Mass every second Sunday of the month at 7 a.m. on Channel 2 which reaches Guam and Saipan and even Papua New Guinea and beyond. It is a privilege to bring Christ via television far and wide. However, be reminded that the TV Mass is primarily for the sick or those who are unable to go to church for valid reasons and situations. In other words, the TV Mass is not a substitute for a church Mass for those who are able to go.

* * *

While it is true that the value of the Mass does not depend on the priest who is celebrating it, it is likewise true that the appeal of the Mass can be heightened or lowered by the priest who is celebrating it. As representatives of Christ, we priests are to make His presence, not our presence, felt. And as representatives, let us not become thieves who deprive the laity of their quality time with their God. For one hour in their busy week, people come to hear and experience God. Let us give them the very best of ourselves and of our God.

* * *

Everything we do should lead to the Eucharist, and must proceed from the Eucharist. Our partaking of the sacramental Body of Christ should lead us to deeper participation in the life and mission of the ecclesiastical Body of Christ. Communion should lead us to deeper mission, and mission should lead us to deeper communion. We are not just spiritual gluttons or plain activists. We are disciples in communion with the Lord with a mission.

* * *

Let us all heed Jaime Cardinal Sin's call for June 6 as a day of prayer and fasting, and June 7 as a day of Holy Hours and reparation for priests. Please pray for us, your priests, especially these days. Unworthy as we are, may the Lord continue to use us, not so much because of us, but in spite of us. May we continue to be grateful, humble and loving ministers of the Body of Christ (Corpus Christi). Yes, please pray for me, this unworthy Orbos of Christ (Orbos Christi!).

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me to pray every Mass as if it were my first, my last and my only Mass. Amen.

Celibacy is heroic loving

COMMENTARY

Fr. Sim Sunpayco, S.J.

WHEN we hear it said that "only a few are called to become priests," the question that comes up is, how many are called to married life? Then the debate about celibacy of priests follows.

As a requirement for the priesthood, celibacy is considered a burden, introduced by a medieval Church as a form of discipline, not scriptural or essential to the priesthood.

This line of thinking gets a jolt when reversed. Instead of looking at celibacy as a requirement for the priesthood, consider the priesthood as a requirement for celibacy.

Celibacy is often described as abstinence from marriage. Not necessarily. Everybody is called to celibacy. Only a few are called to marriage.

Celibacy is a way of loving that is in contrast to the marital way of loving. The latter is exclusive (reserved by a husband to his wife only, and by the wife to her husband alone). Marital love is a reward that is immediately reciprocated. Husband and wife share the pleasure, the affirmation, the mutual support and consolations of married love. All these and more are gifts from God to married couples for their sake and that of the children, the family, the human race.

But beyond the marital love husband and wife share with each other, they also are called to practice celibate love toward everybody else: their children, in-laws and others. Parents love their children and attend to their needs so that they will grow as fully developed persons-for-others, and be ready to manage their own affairs. Children are not brought up primarily to serve their parents in their old age.

Celibacy is a way of loving that is inclusive and a love that does not expect any reward. This is the love of Jesus Christ. And His mission is to teach us to love like the way He has loved us. Look at the whole life of Jesus in Nazareth and in all the places where He encountered the people, His disciples, His enemies up to the cross in Calvary. His words, example, the way He lived and the way He finally died—all these describe to us this celibate way of loving.

In marital love, the priorities are the well-endowed and lovely for the man; macho for the woman. For Christ they are the sinners, the outcast and unwanted by society; the least, the last, the lost, those who are difficult to love, the lepers, the marginally poor.

Christ's love shone magnificently on the cross. There Christ loved us sinners.

With the thief He forgave us, and loved us to the end (no question of a commitment that is not for life). To continue loving and praying for those nailing Him to the cross, finding an excuse for them even amid the pain and humiliation, the prolonged agony, the abandonment in a crucifixion; this is the unfathomable mystery of Christ's celibate love—total and universal, completely selfless!

If we learn to love this way, there are no trials and disappointments, no hurts and sufferings in life we cannot transcend, no person we cannot accept, live and work with.

At the ordination ceremony, the bishop gives "orders" to the new priest: "Know what you are doing, and imitate the mystery you celebrate: model your life on the mystery of the Lord's cross." That is the pinnacle of a celibate way of living and loving.

The priesthood is not the vocation. It is a function, a response to a call. The vocation: to be with Jesus, to work with Jesus, to do it with the love of Jesus. To be a priest is less of an achievement and more of a responsibility or a mission. To praise a priest on his ordination day as if he has been elevated to a high position of honor is risky. For on that day he is being prepared for "crucifixion": to love the way Jesus loved, the celibate way.

The whole life of a priest, his seminary formation (purifying his intentions, acquiring habits of prayer and self-restraint, responsible use of freedom and discernment, being steeped in evangelical poverty as his lifestyle, to become truly human and truly Christian), the holy orders he received and the graces showered on him at ordination; all these are designed to enable him to give his unconditional yes to that mystery of Christ's love, that celibate way of loving that is reenacted and celebrated in the Eucharist. This formation process begun in the seminary has to go on all his life.

The other sacrament that is exclusively priestly is the sacrament of reconciliation. Here the priest is again "ordained or ordered" to celibate loving; to bring the lost and stray members of the People of God back to their Father and to their sisters and brothers in the community. The priest looks after sinners, the outcast, the wounded, the loveless, those in despair, loving them with all his heart, and celebrating with them the sacrament of God's mercy. Every priest has to reflect on the kind of lifestyle and order of priorities in his use of time and leisure if he must be a good shepherd ready even to give his life for his flock.

The priesthood does not automatically make a priest celibate. And the celibate's way of loving is not a private domain of priests. The fullness of institutional support or grace of office is given to a priest because as pastor, as servant-leader, he is to lead his whole community to Christ's celibate way of loving. The total commitment of a priest to the priesthood is necessary for a full living out of the call to celibacy. A priest who is totally and heroically dedicated to the whole community especially to the marginalized poor, the sick and the needy among his people cannot properly attend to his own family if he is married: Celibacy becomes a requirement not of the priesthood but of heroic loving.

Fr. Sim Sunpayco, S.J., is a former rector of the San Jose Seminary at the Ateneo de Manila.

Solo parent stories

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE COLUMNS on solo parents and the policies of certain Catholic schools on the admission of children born to solo parents have revealed a lode of stories—heartbreaking, edifying and always interesting—that I thought I'd share some with you. Other letters contain not so much stories as provocative views. I'll share them with you in later columns.

* * *

WRITING all the way from Benguet, "Samuel" shares the story of his sister:

"A sister of mine ran away from home at the age of 14 (when) she was in second year high school. Three years later, she came home with a child but no husband. The family accepted her with open arms and after she gave birth to a girl, she tried to enroll again in her Catholic alma mater. However, to her horror, she was not accepted for the reason that she has become a single parent in spite of the fact that she had been a consistent honor student although she was a working student in the school library.

"We tried to enroll her in other Catholic schools with the same depressing result.

"Between sobs as she desperately cried on my shoulder, she asked: If no school is going to accept me (so I could) finish at least secondary level, how will I ever support my child? What will become of my child? Granting, for the sake of argument that I had been a bad student, I have now reformed for the better, don't I deserve a second chance? Who is he who is so perfect that he did not commit any mistake in his entire life?

"After widening the area of our search for a school, she was finally accepted by a vocational school located three hours away from home. I took care of her child but after two weeks, she fell ill. The unfortunate separation between mother and child was too much for both of them to bear. My sister had no choice but to stop her studies.

"At 18, we had to fake a high school diploma for her to go to work abroad in order to support her child. A child supporting a child! Her baby, born without a father is also without a mother! Thanks to the policies of the Catholic schools.

"At present, the child is now a third year college student in Manila, courtesy of a single mother who, in spite of the pain and embarrassment of rejection '*pilit na iginagapang ang kanyang buhay, sampu ang kanyang anak* (persevered in pursuing her goals in life, along with that of her child).' Both are determined to prove the Catholic schools wrong."

* * *

A YOUNG lady named "Guia" offers to share her experience with Woodrose:

"After graduation from grade school in 1984, I applied to Woodrose for high school. First, they interviewed my mother for more than an hour. I was made to wait in the waiting room. When my mom came storming out of the room, I was relieved thinking that it was finally my turn to be interviewed. But my mom told me that I could not go to Woodrose. I asked her why on the way home. She explained to me that they told her that they could not accept me because my parents were separated. I said, and so? She said that they told her that children of 'broken families' are not (a) good influence on the other children.

"I could not believe what I heard! I was very disappointed but now, in hindsight, I am glad that I did not end up in that school! Hypocrites! My disappointment stemmed from the fact that I knew that I was more than qualified to enter that school. My grades were extremely high and I never had problems with conduct and was always a member of the student council. I was accomplished.

"To make the long story short, I went to another school and excelled up until I graduated from the Ateneo Law School.

"The reason I cannot forgive Woodrose is that I do not think that they have the right to judge people that way. I know of many classmates and friends whose parents are not 'separated' but nevertheless, these kids had many issues making them miserable and non-performers in school. Just because we come from broken families it does not make us lesser persons. In fact, we are more mature and become stronger people. I will never ever forgive them for making me feel (even if it was only for about an hour) that I am not worthy of a good education because my parents are separated. And I will never ever send my own children to schools that discriminate. What kind of values will my children learn from such schools? It is very hypocritical of them."

* * *

AND from "Althea," a Woodrose alumna, comes this message for "Ms A" and other solo parents and their daughters, on why they shouldn't feel too bad about not meeting the school's "standards":

"I am sorry that Ms A's child was not able to enroll in Woodrose, but she shouldn't feel too bad about it. I studied in Woodrose for three years during grade school and had a very traumatic experience as I was bullied by my classmates almost every day. We brought the matter to the attention of the school administration but nothing was done about it. We were so frustrated and helpless that my parents decided to transfer me to another school. This goes to show that there are also problem children brought up (by) whole families.

"My experience in Woodrose affected me emotionally that I was brought to a child psychologist until I was able to cope with my insecurities and regain my self-confidence.

"There are a lot of better schools that Ms A's child can go to. She should not be misguided that only elite Catholic institutions can mold her child to be a better person and eventually be a good citizen of our country."

Justice in a time of moral certainty

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE YEAR was 1986. A new government had come to power following the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship through a peaceful revolution. So many lives had been lost or destroyed, and so much public wealth wasted and stolen, in the preceding dark years. The time for reckoning and settling scores had finally come.

One of the urgent concerns of the government was to prevent the dissipation of assets known to belong to the Marcoses and their cronies. Most of them fled abroad while Edsa I was unfolding. The revolutionary government promptly sequestered their properties and filed cases against them and the underlings who assisted them during their plunderous rule of the country.

Sixteen years have quickly passed. The nation has had four governments after Marcos. Some of the major properties that the government took over in 1986 remain under sequestration, while many have been sold at bargain prices after being stripped and mismanaged by a succession of unaccountable government fiscal agents. Some valuable objects are reported missing.

Most of the cases filed against the Marcoses and their cronies are unresolved to this day. Some cronies testified against the Marcoses in exchange for immunity against prosecution, leaving their co-accused, the small bureaucrats, to twist in the wind. Yet no Marcos is in jail. The heirs of the late dictator continue to claim hundreds of millions of dollars locked in Swiss accounts, though they have not explained how they earned this fabulous amount of money and why they are entitled to it.

The government's ability to win its cases has been dismal. It is enough to make one rethink the moral ground on which people power proudly stood in 1986.

Last May 16, 2002, the Sandiganbayan ruled on a case that had begged for resolution for the past 16 years. This was the last of the cases filed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) in connection with the 1985 sale of the Pantranco bus company, then owned by the Philippine National Bank (PNB) and the National Investment & Development Corp. (NIDC), to a firm suspected to be a front for Marcos son-in-law, Greggy Araneta. The court ruled that the accused Jose Crisanto Jr., former executive vice president and general manager of Pantranco, and Fernando Balatbat, were not only innocent, but that all the charges filed against them were without basis.

The PCGG had charged them with conspiring with some PNB officials and private individuals to sell the state-owned Pantranco assets to an undercapitalized firm believed to be owned by a presidential son-in-law in a manner that was irregular and grossly disadvantageous to the government. The government never proved its case. Its own witnesses and documents showed that the transaction was approved and authorized by the boards of the PNB, NIDC and Pantranco itself; that the purchase price was the highest offer received; and that the down payment and first installment were paid on schedule.

Neither was the involvement of Araneta in the sale ever substantiated. The case against him was dismissed in 2001.

Earlier, in 1994, two relatively junior officials from the PNB who had been singled out for prosecution—Dominador H. Lopez Jr. and lawyer Ramon F. Aviado, Jr.—were acquitted without having to present testimony or evidence in their favor. The Sandiganbayan noted that they were victims of selective prosecution. "Deliberately or otherwise, certain public officials…were segregated for investigation and prosecution, leaving unscathed and immune other high-placed personalities."

Another PNB official, former executive vice president Fernando Maramag Jr., died in the course of the trial. The man was about to retire in 1986 when the case was filed. He was unable to collect his retirement pension, and more important, to have the satisfaction of being declared innocent.

Crisanto described to me the distinct sensation of being personally vindicated: "I am 78 but I took care of myself. I refused to accept the liberation promised by death. I wanted to be alive when I am finally pronounced innocent. My daily prayers always included a plea for my acquittal. I laughed inside the other day when unconsciously I said the same prayers."

Crisanto had been a transportation man for over 40 years, setting up Nicaragua's mass transport system as an expert for the World Bank in the early 1980s. No one perhaps knows the land transportation industry in our country better than this man. If he had not been charged, he could easily have been transportation minister. Instead he had to go back to earning a living as a notary public after he was charged. He could not get a better job while a criminal case was pending against him.

Lopez, a UP graduate, left a very promising career as a banker. He was vice president of the Management Assistance and Special Services Department at the PNB at the time. He had risen from the ranks, starting out as a file clerk. He had to resign.

Aviado, a bar topnotcher, was PNB assistant chief legal counsel in 1986. He too had to resign.

A big chunk of these men's lives was unjustly taken away from them. The charges against them were totally without basis. The real target was Araneta. A very senior official of the PNB, unable to sleep with a lie, executed an affidavit in 1995 that nullified nearly everything he had attested to in the1986 charges. But justice did not come easy for the accused. They had to wait until the courts could free themselves from the moral certitude of Edsa, so as to render justice to those who were too small to protect themselves from arbitrary prosecution.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Tancangco should be impeached

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

ALL that remains to be done is get the favorable endorsement of 22 more congressmen and the impeachment complaint against Commission on Elections Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco will go directly to the Senate for trial.

To date, 55 congressmen have signed the impeachment complaint filed by the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections against Tancangco for betrayal of public trust.

The charge sheet reads like a checklist of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law on the things a public official should **not** do. What stands out from the litany is that the acts that constitute betrayal of public trust involve public funds.

The amounts in question are not chicken feed. They are in billions of pesos.

Among others, she is accused of issuing a notice of award to a company in the amount of P6.5 billion when the entire budget of the Comelec is only P1.2 billion. She also has to answer for the P500 million she spent for a precinct-mapping project that was not authorized by law.

Then there's the P46.4 million worth of cameras and films she purchased supposedly for use in the elections of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao that rotted at the Comelec warehouse.

I will not go into the details of the other accusations against Tancangco that pertain to the handling of the taxpayers' money. The position paper prepared by Namfrel to support its accusations against Tancangco on her mishandling of public funds is well written and properly documented. It can stand scrutiny by an impartial jury.

Negligence

There are two items in the proposed articles of impeachment for Tancangco that I believe show that, on top of her cavalier treatment of the people's money, she does not deserve to continue in office.

First is her failure to regularly attend the en banc sessions of the Comelec. No wonder the Comelec has a lot of unfinished business. From January 2001 to February 2002, Tancangco was a "no show" in 44 of its meetings. That translates to absence in 42 percent of the meetings. No excuses or prior notice. Alone, or sometimes in tandem with fellow Commissioners Ralph Lantion, Mehol Sadain and Rufino Javier, she was able to paralyze the operations of the electoral body for lack of quorum.

Her consistent and deliberate refusal to attend and participate in the proceedings of the electoral body is confirmed by the records of the Comelec, as certified by the board secretary, Norma Gonzalez.

If any other official in the civil service committed the same offense, he would have been dismissed immediately for gross neglect of duty under the Administrative Code.

Tancangco has no business remaining in office if she does not have the energy or enthusiasm to perform the duties and responsibilities of her office.

As if her work ethic is not bad enough, she almost ruined the Nov. 26, 2001 elections in the ARMM. From out of the blue, in the morning of that date, Tancangco initiated, with Lantion, Sadain and Javier agreeing, the issuance of a "resolution" suspending the elections in Sulu.

The resolution cited two reasons for the suspension: the military cannot provide appropriate security and Tancangco has not yet studied the clustering of precincts in that province.

The "resolution" was issued without the benefit of prior consultations with the Comelec as a body and the military officials who had earlier been deputized to make the security preparations.

As expected, the military top brass in Mindanao, then headed by Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Frank Cimatu, howled in protest over the imputation of negligence and inefficiency. And with reason, because they had earlier painstakingly put in place a security system that would ensure the peaceful conduct of the elections.

Fortunately, the Comelec regional director knows a scam when he sees one. When he saw that the "Tancangco resolution" sent to him by fax was undated and did not contain a number and the requisite certificate of authenticity from the Comelec secretary, he ignored it and proceeded with the electoral process as scheduled.

The timely assurances of Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and other local government officials to the Sulu voters that their right to suffrage had not been suspended, averted possible chaos and disorder in an area that has had more than its share of violence.

If Tancangco were a neophyte Comelec official at the time she came up with the unauthorized resolution, her action could have been attributed to inexperience or oversight. But she was no rookie official when she committed that booboo. She knew what she was doing and what troubles her action could have caused had it not been checked by a responsible regional director.

Whichever way one looks at it, it is clear the errant resolution was meant to make life difficult for Benipayo even if, in the process, it would cause disorder and confusion in the affected area.

And she claims to be an honorable woman.

Impeach

In two years' time, the country will go back to the polls to elect a fresh set of local and national officials. Preparations for clean and honest registration of voters and automation of the electoral process have to start now.

But with the way the Comelec is being hamstrung by the antics of Tancangco, with the fawning support of her cohorts, it is doubtful if the 2004 elections will be any better than past electoral exercises.

The adversarial attitude of Tancangco in a body that draws its strength from collegial interaction is difficult to understand. A former high-ranking Comelec official theorizes that her frustration in not being appointed twice to the top post of the Comelec accounts for that posture.

In 1999, in spite of being the most senior commissioner, she was "bypassed" in favor of Harriet Demetriou after then Comelec Chair Bernardo Pardo was named to the Supreme Court.

Tancangco suffered another "bypass" when, with the retirement of Demetriou due to some term technicalities, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Benipayo to his present position.

Whatever may be the reason for Tancangco's unimpressive Comelec service record, it is apparent she no longer possesses the qualities required of an official whose responsibility is to ensure that the people's sentiments are accurately heard through the ballot box.

For the good of the country, Tancangco should be impeached!

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TALK of the TOWN

Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

How are parents coping with high tuition?

PARENTS recognize good education as one of the best legacies they can give to their children. For middle-class parents, it means sending their children to private schools, which they believe offer better facilities and teaching staff than public schools.

But many parents find it increasingly difficult to enrol their children at private schools because tuition has skyrocketed. For instance, tuition for the fourth grade at the St. Scholastica's College in Manila rose 5,655 percent or an average of 200 percent a year from P770.75 in school year 1974-1975 to P44,362 this school year.

Prep school at Claret in Quezon City costs P42,000; third year high school at Xavier School in San Juan, Metro Manila, P80,000; and a semester at De La Salle University, P33,000.

Private school owners can raise their tuition every year without interference from the government because tuition has been deregulated.

To cope with the high cost of education, some parents borrow the books of their relatives' or friends' children for use by their own kids who are a year or two behind. Some sell cosmetics and women's undergarments to augment their income, while others buy school supplies at Divisoria and forego luxury items.

But for a growing number of parents, the cost of education at private schools is getting to be beyond their means especially if they have several children. A parent losing a job results in the transfer of his kids either to the province or to public schools, or both.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ PAGE DESIGN: ERNIE SAMBO

'I'm afraid I won't be able to send my kids to private school next year'

By Liza R. Almoneda
Los Baños, Laguna

I AM a mother of three little girls whose ages range from three to eight years old. Two of my daughters are now attending school. Pauline is an incoming Grade 3 and Eunize, an incoming Grade 1. Both are enrolled in a private school. My third daughter, Nathalie, will attend school next year.

My husband and I are ordinary employees of an international organization. He is a contract driver and I, a secretary.

Our average monthly income of P20,000 is just enough for our monthly expenses which include school allowance, apartment rental fee, electricity and water bills, college educational plan, school service and food. We don't have extra money for medical expenses and other emergencies.

I must admit that with all these expenses, it's really impossible for us to send all our children to a private school. We are fully aware that going to a public school is a lot cheaper and will probably lighten our burden, but as parents, we believe that our children deserve a good and quality education.

This is the best gift and legacy we can give to our children. My husband and I believe that a private school can better provide the education our children need than public schools. No one can blame us. The facilities, book distribution, student-to-teacher ratio, classrooms and school amenities in private schools are better than those in public schools.

Unstoppable

The unstoppable tuition increase becomes an annual burden for us. To finance the education of our children and other expenses we resort to rigid planning and budgeting. My husband's salary goes solely to the payment of the college educational plan of our three daughters while my salary is used to finance our other monthly expenses. Part of our strategy is preparing the educational fund a year ahead. My 13th month pay and that of my husband are set aside for the next school year's expenses. We will just add a little amount to complete the fund.

I prefer to pay for the annual tuition rather than pay in installment because it gives me a 10-percent discount. Even the allowances of my two daughters are budgeted. They go to school with their snacks. I would buy a one-week supply, like a box of tetra pack juice and pastries. I discipline them to consume one pack of juice daily to ensure that one box last until the weekend.

I am thankful that a Good Samaritan shoulders half of my eldest daughter's tuition for this school year. The school principal referred me to a benefactor upon learning that I have difficulty paying for my two kids' tuition.

I must admit that budgeting our salary alone is not enough. So, I went into selling goods like Triumph and Avon products at my workplace. However, income from this is small. I can't spend a big amount of time doing this as I may lose my job. My two sisters, who are working abroad, are also a source of help. They send boxes of goodies and I sell them here.

Not enough

I'm already planning how I can save for my children's expenses for the next school year as my youngest, Nathalie, will also be going to school.

My math tells me that I need to save at least P60,000 for my three daughters. I should allot P20,000 for each of them and should save at least P5,000 a month. I am now considering accepting a tutorial job for us to have an extra income. But because of high electricity and water rates and rising transport fares and rent for an apartment, it seems that no matter how good I am in budgeting, it's not enough.

I'm afraid that we might not afford to send our children to a private school next year.

I am now conditioning and preparing my children that if worse comes to worst, if we fail to save the P60,000 for the whole year, they may have to transfer to a much cheaper school or, probably, to a public school. It's painful for a mother like me, knowing the potential of my children to excel.

(Interview by Chona Galang, PDI Research Department)

'The economic crisis forced my parents to enrol me in the province'

By Bettina Rellosa
Incoming 3rd year High School

WHEN we talk about school, we not only think about the lessons we will learn or the activities we'll have. School also means expenses. Of course, there's the enrollment fees, which are getting higher and higher. And the prices of books and school supplies that we need are very expensive, as well.

Because of the economic crisis, I experienced difficulties. Let me go back to the year 2000 to tell you my story...

I was then a Grade 6 student studying in a private school in Quezon City about to graduate to high school. As any normal student would have done, I, together with my friends, was looking for schools to transfer to.

My close friend and I took a test in this exclusive girl's school and luckily we both passed. I thought I was going to study there for high school. But I was wrong.

During the closing days of school, my Mom informed us that she and Dad were considering the possibility of us moving to the province. She works at a life insurance company, and since she grew up in that province, she has more contacts there and it would be easier for us to have money. Since she and Dad didn't have stable jobs back then, we had to move to the province.

I didn't want to leave. I wanted to stay in Quezon City with my friends and relatives. I didn't want to leave the house where we lived with my grandparents.

No choice

Most of all, I didn't want to spend my high school life where I knew no one except for my cousin, who, along with his family, was going to the province, as well. But I had no choice. Our family finally left for the province one evening in May 2000.

I just slept through the five-hour trip, not wanting to arrive at our new house. When I woke up, we were almost there. I cried, as it only hit me then that I was going to a strange place without the friends whom I spent my elementary years with. My family and I helped each other fix the house to make it a home for us for until who knows when.

A few days later, it was time to go to my new school. I went there together with my cousin and my Mom. I was really scared since I knew no one and my cousin and I were in different sections. I was sad, since every one there had his or her own *barkada* to talk with while I just stood in one corner wanting to go back home.

It was really difficult for me to adjust to that place. Sometimes they use their local dialect, which I didn't understand. They also do some chores in school, which I don't really do, like waxing and scrubbing the floor. I even spoke in English on my first day since it was the language used in my previous school. And some people called me *"Inglesera"* or "Manila girl."

Also, back there, the days start early and end early. Like, they wake up at around 6 a.m. and sleep at 8 p.m. (even if it's not a school day).

Culture shock

Needless to say, some things they do were really different from what I was used to. It was a bit like culture shock for me. But I was able to adjust and make a lot of good friends.

We lived comfortably in the province because of my Mom's contacts in insurance and my Dad's new job. Only problem is, my Dad's job required him to stay late in the office. After a year, he decided to go back to Metro Manila for a better job.

Of course we were sad, but his job would add to our income, too. So he left and went back to our grandparent's house. While my dad was gone, I only had my Mom and brother with me. It was a bit hard at first, since we were used to having Dad around. But as time passed, we got used to it.

Now we are back to normal. With my Dad's job, we came back to Quezon City. My brother and I are now going to study in Quezon Ciy since my Dad had earned enough money for us to do that. We are very happy about that, since we will see our relatives again.

As you see, we all have to make adjustments, accept new ideas, for it's the only way to survive. Like us, though it is difficult, we tried to find ways to solve our money problems.

When I was in the province my tuition was only P12,000 and it was already the best school there. In Quezon City the tuition is about P40,000 a year or even more. And not everyone can afford it especially if they have more than one child. So you can imagine what it takes for our Mom and Dad to send us to school.

'My eldest uses the books of my cousin's son'

By Agnes B. Serrano
Angeles City, Pampanga

I HAVE three boys studying in private schools. The first two, Paolo and Francis, are in high school and enrolled at Don Bosco Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Quarterly tuition for Paolo and Francis is P4,719 each. However, a payment equivalent to a month's tuition plus miscellaneous fees is allowed upon enrollment. Carlos, the youngest, is in Grade 5 this school year and is enrolled at Holy Family Academy in Angeles City. Quarterly tuition for Carlos is P2,693. Upon enrollment, P4,812 is paid to cover tuition for three months and miscellaneous fees. To ease up a bit, tuition is paid in quarterly installment.

My husband and I are both self-employed. He quit working abroad three years ago and does occasional but very limited consultancy work in computers.

To cope with rising tuition, I use the books of my cousin's son who studies at the same school as Carlos and is one grade ahead. Similarly, I borrow the old books of my classmate's son, who studies in Don Bosco and is one year ahead of my eldest. My second child uses his eldest brother's books since his brother is one year ahead of him. Unfortunately, there are some new books I need to buy for this school year. For the three, I can easily save P 2,500 for books alone.

Uniforms

The same is true for uniforms. Some of those worn by the eldest last year can fit the size of my second. For the youngest, I have to buy new uniforms, since he is five years younger. Fortunately, he can use some of his cousin's old uniforms. I buy fewer new uniforms to replace worn out uniforms used last year. Luckily, ready-made trousers and shirts can be bought at lower prices these days.

My husband and I still try to keep them in private schools despite the rising tuition. One good reason is the quality of education, which we believe is still better in private than in public schools at this time.

Things may have been different before but with our experience comparing them with their cousins, we still believe that private schools are better than public ones.

'The price is out of this world'

By Ruth Marie C. Atienza
Manila

GOOD education is a parent's legacy to his or her children. However, the price to pay for this is really out of this world. I have seven children, all of school age, two in college, one in high school and four in elementary.

My five girls all go to an exclusive school in Manila considered among the most prestigious and reputable. This is primarily because both sides of the family are from the same school and it's within walking distance from our house.

Shocked

Tuition has increased yearly at a rate of 15 percent. Several weeks ago, I was looking for an important document and I happened to stumble upon an envelope my Mom gave me that contained my old school records. I was so shocked when I saw the receipt for my tuition for school year 1974 to 1975 when I was in Grade 4. The annual fee then was only P770.75 compared to this year's P44,362. In a span of 28 years, the cost of good education rose by 5,655 percent or an average of 200 percent per year! This is not to mention other necessary expenses such as *baon*, uniforms and school supplies. How they have skyrocketed!

Our educational expenses eat up a big part of our monthly income. Considering that the cost of food, utilities and clothes have also increased by leaps and bounds, juggling the budget has become quite tedious and frustrating. I had hoped that somehow, we would be able to avail ourselves of a discount, considering my five girls all study in the same school, and my eldest daughter also graduated from there.

Unfortunately, the school only offers financial grants to those whose income fall under a certain bracket. There is no consideration for the number of children enrolled.

At one meeting between parents and administrators on tuition hike, it was made clear that we were not forced to send our children to the private school and that there was a premium to quality education. In other words, "Take it, or leave it!"

Choice

We believe in the school's system of education, and we are not willing to risk sending them to less expensive schools or even a public school, as we are not assured of the quality of education. It is one gamble we simply refuse to take. But it is like a choice between the devil and the deep blue sea. We have opted to cut down our expenses on other things rather than take a risk on our public educational system, which cries out openly for so much improvement, if not overhauling.

If only the gap in quality education between the public and private system is not that enormous, then opting to send our children to a public school will not make us feel that we have not given the best opportunity for them. Prestige has little or nothing to do with it.

Simplicity is a virtue espoused by the school, which has somehow helped us cope with the high, crippling cost of education. Last week, the children went to Divisioria to get their school supplies and other school paraphernalia. They learned to bargain, and were so proud that they saved a thousand pesos and even got more in quantity as compared to the school bookstore. I always remind them not to be pressured by classmates who use branded products.

When we had our vacation last summer in Dumaguete, we were able to get good bargains as the local mall and *tiangges* carried the same products as in Manila but at lower prices.

Nowadays, it takes me longer to do the groceries as I take time to compare prices and really look for less expensive but more or less same quality products. I never go to the supermarket without my thoroughly prepared list.

Extravagance is out of the question, so I am always on the lookout for bargain sales where I am still able to treat myself from time to time, not on unnecessary things but on those I need.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US: World faces attacks worse than 9/11

SINGAPORE—The Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States were a warning of worse atrocities to come, US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said Saturday.

There were warning signs that "as terrorists continue to murder innocents, their methods will only grow more deadly," he told a conference here of Asia-Pacific, North American and European defense ministers and policymakers.

"It would be a mistake to think that we have seen either the last or the worst of such attacks. It would be a mistake to think that, in the future, they will strike only in the United States."

The conference on Asian security has locked on to the issues of global terrorism and the immediate neighborhood threat of a war between India and Pakistan.

Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes, who is involved in a series of bilateral meetings on the margins of the conference, has played down the threat of war, describing the situation along the tense border with Pakistan as "stable."

Pakistan is not represented at the meeting, as its geographical location did not fit the accepted definition of Asia-Pacific, said conference organizers from the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies.

Wolfowitz, in his keynote speech, extended warnings from US Vice President Dick Cheney earlier this month that "there is no doubt" further attacks were being planned in the United States.

The deputy defense secretary said the threat was global and "threatens hundreds of millions of moderate Muslims in East Asia who are among the principal targets of the terrorists."

Intelligence analysts have reported increased communications among al-Qaida cells, held responsible for the Sept. 11 carnage, which they said could be an indication that preparations for a new terrorist attack were under way.

In a speech opening the conference on Friday, Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew said al-Qaida militants linked to Osama bin Laden were plotting to overthrow governments in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore to set up an Islamic state.

Wolfowitz said the world could "never completely eradicate the threat posed by those who are willing to kill themselves to kill others" but there was much that could be done to preempt their actions.

"A global attack requires a global response," he said, praising the contributions of Asia-Pacific governments to the US-led war on terror.

In light of Sept. 11, plans are being formed to make the Singapore meeting an annual event.

Much of the discussion is taking place behind closed doors, and Singapore's Tan said there was a general consensus among the defence ministers for a regular "informal meeting, of dialogue . . . and exchange of views" to discuss common issues such as terrorism.

AFP

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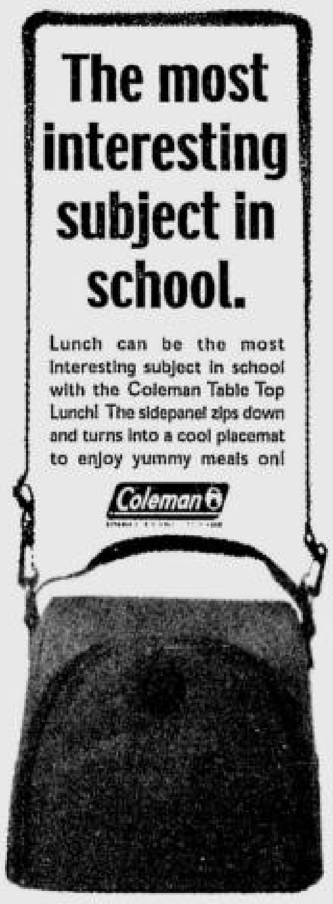
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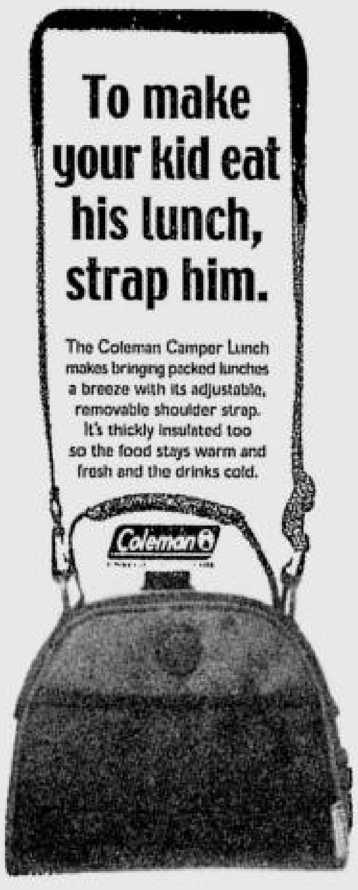
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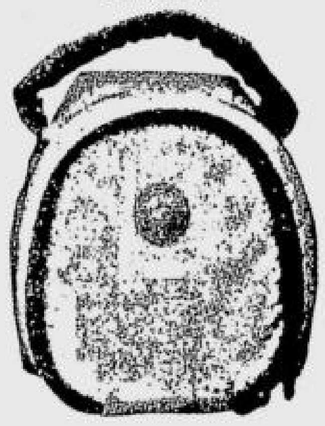
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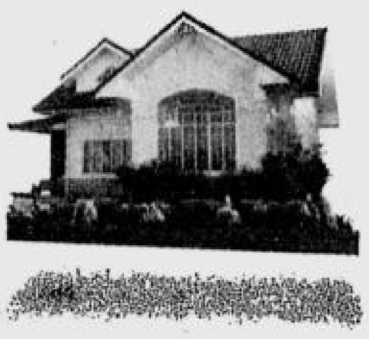

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FBI was told it wasn't ready for terror fight—NYT

NEW YORK—A secret FBI report warned the agency director in the months before Sept. 11 of a significant terror threat from the Middle East and said the bureau did not have the resources to combat it, the New York Times reported on Saturday.

Quoting senior government officials, the Times said that a secret internal assessment, "the Director's Report on Terrorism," found that nearly every major FBI field office lacked the staff needed to evaluate and deal with the threat posed by al-Qaida, which Washington now blames for the hijacking attacks that killed more than 3,000 people last year.

But spending increases called for in the document were rejected by the Justice Department. On Sept. 10, Attorney General John Ashcroft, who was not given a copy of the classified report, rejected an FBI request for an additional $58 million for counterterrorism.

The report did not specifically assess the FBI's ability to infiltrate al-Qaida in the United States but did rate FBI field offices in terms of how well they could counter a terrorist threat in their regions, the paper said.

Those which fell short were coded red, and most major FBI field offices were listed as red, the newspaper said.

The US government had information that al-Qaida was dangerous, but it came from intercepted phone calls and other communications between Islamist militants in the United States, and those overseas. Investigations in the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in Africa also gave some insights into the organization.

But the FBI was able to do little to follow up on that information, the Times reported.

With little insight into al-Qaida, the FBI did not know how to assess a request by the Phoenix field office to look into a large number of Middle Eastern students taking classes at flight schools.

And the FBI headquarters in Washington rejected a request from a Minneapolis office to seek a warrant to search the computer and other belongings of Zacarias Moussaoui, who was arrested before the attacks and is being prosecuted in connection with them.

The top secret report was written by Dale Watson, now the FBI's top counterterrorism official, the Times said. He was building on work done in 1998 by Robert Bryant, then the deputy director, who wanted to reorient the bureau to put more emphasis on counterintelligence, the newspaper said.

"In the late 1990s, the world had changed, and Bryant was trying to change the direction of the FBI," an official familiar with the plan told the Times. *Reuters*

US soldiers kill 3 Afghans by mistake

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan—US special forces mistook a group of Afghan allies for al-Qaida fighters and opened fire, killing three of them, in the latest friendly-fire mishap of the Afghan war.

The shooting took place on Friday in the region in the east of the country where US and British troops are hunting for remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaida fighters.

US Army spokesperson Col. Roger said late on Friday US special forces accompanied by Afghan military officials were not aware of the presence of Afghan allies in a compound where al-Qaida and Taliban leaders were believed to be meeting.

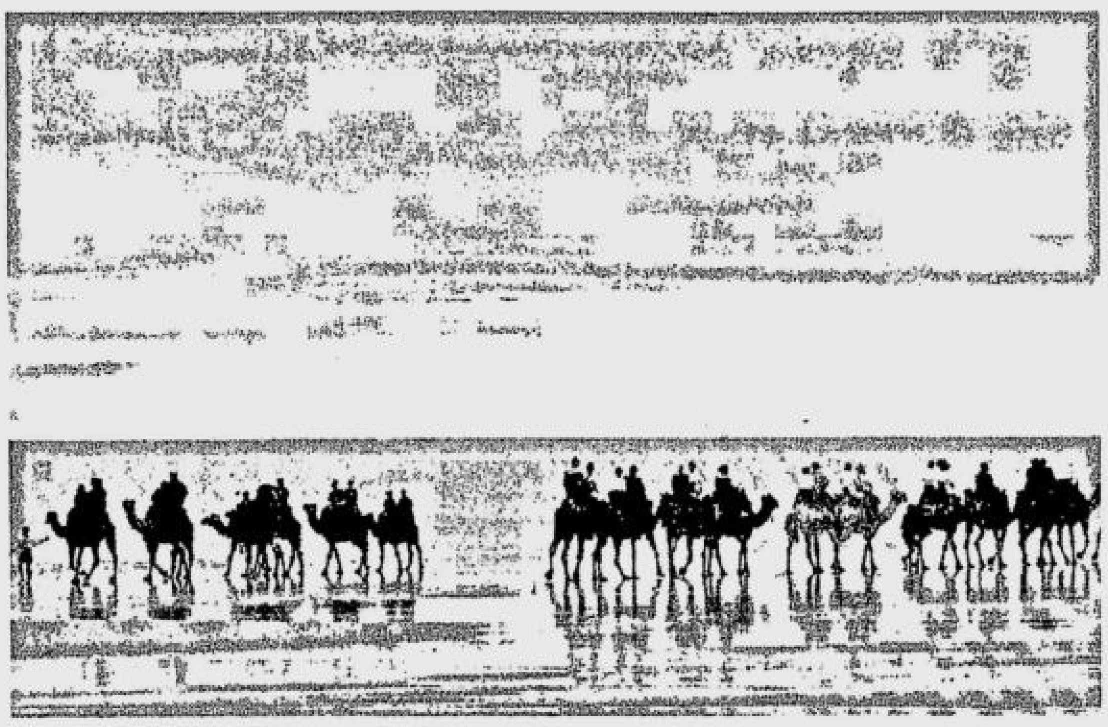
"Initial review efforts have revealed that the men in the compound were part of another Afghan element from another district in Afghanistan . . . allied with the interim authority, at least that's what they purport to be," King said.

Two Afghans wounded in the shooting in Khomar Kalay village near the city of Gardez, capital of Paktia province, were being treated at an allied hospital, he said.

King said there was a report that one of the men in the armed group had shouted they were there to kill al-Qaida, which apparently had been ignored.

He said an investigation of the shooting was underway and steps would be taken to prevent such incidents happening again.

"The review of this action continues and efforts will be made to place coordination measures to prevent similar occurrences in the future," he said. *Reuters*



SLOW AND BUMPY RIDE AFP

Two camel trains pass one another as they carry tourists down Broome's famous Cable Beach in Australia in this file photo dated May 23, 2000. Australia has become one of the top choices for an overseas holiday for those in the Asia-Pacific region.

EU ratifies Kyoto pact, assails US

UNITED NATIONS—All 15 European Union nations ratified the Kyoto protocol against global warming as a bloc on Friday and used the occasion to slam Washington—which has shunned the treaty—for failing to do its part.

The Kyoto pact, which grew out of the historic 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and was signed in Kyoto, Japan, in 1997, is aimed at cutting emissions of polluting greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, which are blamed for rising global temperatures.

It requires industrialized nations to cut their emissions by an average of 5 percent over the period 2008-2012.

But the United States, the world's largest polluter, shunned the treaty shortly after President George W. Bush took office last year, arguing it would harm the US economy.

The pact would have required the United States, which accounts for about a third of the industrialized world's greenhouse gas emissions, to trim emissions by 7 percent from 1990 levels.

But the Bush administration has instead announced policy changes likely to push them up by 30 percent by 2010, the European Commission said. Over the last five years, US emissions rose more than 8 percent, said Margot Wallstrom, European commissioner for the environment. *Reuters*

World steps up pressure to prevent South Asia war

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD—The world's top industrial nations have stepped up pressure on Pakistan to stop Islamic militants from raiding Indian territory and avert war between the two nuclear-armed powers.

In a rare joint statement, foreign ministers of the Group of Eight said in Ottawa they were "gravely concerned about the risks inherent in the current crisis between India and Pakistan, which could destabilize the region and beyond."

"We call on Pakistan, in accordance with its commitments, to take concrete actions immediately to end infiltration across the Line of Control (dividing Kashmir), and to stop terrorist groups operating from territory under its control," the statement said.

India and Pakistan have deployed about a million troops along their border in a confrontation triggered by a bloody December attack on the Indian parliament that New Delhi blamed on Pakistani-based militants fighting its rule in Indian Kashmir.

The two armies have been trading regular heavy fire across their frontier since a mid-May raid on an Indian Army camp in Kashmir sharply increased tension. Dozens of civilians and soldiers on both sides have been killed and wounded.

An Indian defense official said the two sides exchanged fresh artillery and mortar fire on several parts of the border on Saturday. There were no reports of casualties.

Indian police said one person was killed and 15 wounded when militants threw a grenade at a security patrol in Srinagar, the main city in Indian Kashmir, late on Friday.

Rebels have been battling Indian forces in mostly Muslim Kashmir since 1989.

In a sign of growing concern, Western powers have advised tens of thousands of their nationals to leave India.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell told the BBC in an interview there were indications Pakistan was trying to stop militants crossing the disputed border.

"Instructions have been given to cease this kind of activity, but it is too early to say that it has stopped. If it does stop it must also stop permanently," he said.

Powell, who has been speaking to Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and the Indian leadership almost every other day, also invoked the threat of nuclear war.

"Now, I think both sides recognize that the most horrific thing that could happen in the year 2002 is, for the second time in history, a nuclear exchange to take place," he said. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Science Education Institute

Shaping the Future Now

88 QUALIFIERS FOR PHYSICS TEACHING SCHOLARSHIPS NAMED

Dr. Ester B. Ogena, Director of the Science Education Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-SEI) announces the names of the qualifiers for the Physics Teaching Scholarships.

Of the 22,454 examinees who belonged to the upper 5 percent of their graduating classes and took the DOST-SEI Undergraduate Scholarship Examination in February 2002, 88 qualified for the Physics Teaching Scholarships.

Each qualifier will be notified about the scholarship award. Awardees who intend to enroll at the Philippine Normal University (PNU), Taft Avenue, Manila, are requested to report together with mother or father at PNU for the signing of the Scholarship Agreement while awardees who intend to enroll at the University of San Carlos (USC), Cebu City are advised to report together with mother or father at the DOST Regional Office No. VII, Gov. Manuel Cuenco, Banilad, Cebu City. Awardees should bring the following requirements: original and clear photocopy of Birth Certificate, parent's 2001 Income Tax Return, accompanying parent's Residence Certificate and notarization fee.

Scholarship privilege include tuition fees not to exceed P4,000/semester, monthly stipend of P3,450, book, transportation and uniform allowances and group health insurance.

DR. ESTER B. OGENA (*Sgd*)
Director of the Science Education Institute of the Department of Science and Technology
(DOST-SEI)

2002 DOST-SEI QUALIFIERS IN PHYSICS

1 ABAD, MA. BERNADETTE OLIMPO
2 ABILLE, CHARITO ABIGANIA
3 ALCALA, LEONARD S.
4 ALCUIZAR, SENORITA MARIE TRECE REZADA
5 ALVAREZ, AYRIN GRACE BILLANES
6 AMBROCIO, MA. LAIR ENCARNACION
7 ANDALES, JEANDALYN LECCIONES
8 ANDOY, MIRACELLA DARUNDAY
9 ARENAS, DONNA JESUSA REODIQUE
10 AREVALO, RYAN LACDAO
11 ARGUELLES, PRINCESS TOBIAS
12 ASPIRAS, KATHLENE ANN RAFOL
13 AUNZO, CHERIE MAE YBAS
14 BABILONIA, GIOVANNI POTENCIO
15 BACLAY, PAULA APRIL MENDOZA
16 BAJO, HENRICK CABINGAS
17 BANCOLO, FAITH CELESTE CABUGUASON
18 BASILIOTE, ARNEL DOLANCOS
19 BAYOGO, JAYSON GARCES
20 CABAHUG, JERR ALACRITO
21 CABRERA, LUCKY MAY GARCIA
22 CAJIPE, DULCE CORAZON VALDESPINA
23 CALAGO, JOWILLYN DERESAS
24 CAMAY, VIRVE JOY BAYARCAL
25 CARANGUIAN, TEODORA CAGURANGAN
26 CASTILLO, BERNARDINO SININING
27 CASTILLO, CLAUDETTE MARTINEZ
28 CLAVEL, KATHERINE CASABUENA
29 CONOL, ROSS ANTHONY ZABATE
30 CORPUZ, KRISTINE ILAO
31 DELA CERNA, JONATHAN CABELLON
32 DELA CRUZ, KRISTIAN FIGUEROA
33 DELOS SANTOS, TINACIEL ARIT
34 DEODATO, TERESA TAMAYO
35 DIODINA, NERILYN SOGUILON
36 DIVINO, GEORGE ALQUESALAS
37 DUGAY, RYAN JEFFREY VICTORIA
38 ENGUERRA, RONA ESTABAYA
39 ENRIQUEZ, NINO B.
40 ESPARTERO, JESSECA AILENE CALUSA
41 ESTANIEL, MARIANN ROSARIO CHUA
42 ESTRELLA, JANICE CELEBRAR
43 GALAEZ, MARVIN PARIS
44 GLORIA, MARIANNE CLAIRE PEREZ
45 GONZALES, PAUL ERNEST HONG
46 GUINAREZ, JOESETTE RIVERA
47 IMPERIAL, KAREN CONTANTE
48 INGCAD, MARK OLIVER SANTOS
49 JAENA, ANNALYN ZAMORA
50 JIAO, AILEEN KATHERINE ESTRADA
51 LUCAS, LYRICA LAYAG
52 LUMANOG, ANALYN LEE
53 LUNA, MIA JOPSON
54 MACALONG, DIANA JANE NAMIT
55 MAGO, EMMANUEL R
56 MERCADAL, ROSALITO ROSALEJOS
57 MISCALA, MELVIN ARMENION
58 MONSERRAT RICHARD CENTILLES
59 MOYO, JENNELYN BRAVO
60 MURILLO, EDGARDO JR. TOLENTINO
61 NILLAS, ROSALIE BETANIO
62 OLE, ABEL, FLORIDO
63 OMEGA, EDWARD INTAN
64 OMISOL, MYLVIN IPAN
65 OPENA, MELLETTE RAMIREZ
66 OSMILLO, MELBA ISAGA
67 PAQUIBOT, LEOFE PARAME
68 PATACSIL, JORDETTE AUDREY DESCALZO
69 PELGONE, ALFONS JAYSON ORBASE
70 PULVERA, JESSICA SAS
71 QUITANEG, ARRA CABIGAO
72 RAMOS, KAREN KHRYS AUTOR
73 SABIT, MARK MARVIN REAL
74 SANCHEZ, RAMON III LOPEZ
75 SARANDI, LUTHER MARC PAULINO
76 SARMIENTO, DEXTER ERMAC
77 SEDIGO, DIONAVIE NEQUINTO
78 SIMBOL, CRISTINA BANQUISIO
79 SY, GENEVEVE URBIZTONDO
80 TANAJURA, ANGEL MANAYON
81 TINGZON, SHEILA MAE DAMALERIO
82 TRAJANO, JULIUS CESAR IMPERIAL
83 VARGAS, MA. CHARISSE RONITO
84 VEGA, ALLA DENIS ESPELETA
85 VILLAFLOR, KAYE MICHELLE BARTOLATA
86 VILLAR, NORLY BASTASA
87 VILLARUBIA, RUEL PILAPIL
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Former Milwaukee bishop apologizes for sex scandal

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin—The former Archbishop of Milwaukee apologized at a prayer service here Friday for the scandal caused by revelations that he had a sexual liaison with a student more than 20 years ago.

Bishop Rembert Weakland, who officially retired from his post May 24, expressed remorse for the scandal caused by his "sinfulness."

"I acknowledge and fully accept my responsibility for the inappropriate nature of my relationship with Mr. Paul Marcoux. I apologize for any harm done him," the 75-year-old prelate told a congregation of several hundred at a prayer service here.

"I have come to see and understand the way in which the power of the Roman collar can work in such relationships and, even more so, a bishop's miter."

Weakland never acknowledged any sexual misconduct involving Paul Marcoux, but has admitted that the diocese bought him off with a $450,000 payment in 1998.

Marcoux alleged in a recent television interview that Weakland sexually assaulted him when he went to the bishop to ask his advice about entering the priesthood as a 30-something theology student in 1979.

Weak-land, who said Friday the payment was not intended as "hush money," but an expedient way of avoiding litigation, also expressed his regret for misleading parishioners about the source of those funds. *AFP*

WEAKLAND

Japanese challenges nuke taboo

TOKYO—In remarks likely to infuriate Asian neighbors, a senior Japanese official has suggested Tokyo could abandon a decades-old ban on nuclear weapons, prompting Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to race to control the damage.

Japan, the only nation ever to suffer an atomic bomb attack, has stuck for nearly 35 years to its "three principles," which ban the possession, production and import of nuclear arms.

Tokyo could review that self-imposed traditional ban, local media on Saturday quoted a senior Japanese government official as saying on condition of anonymity.

"The principles are just like the Constitution. But in the face of calls to amend the Constitution, the amendment of the principles is also likely," Kyodo news agency quoted the unidentified top government official as saying.

Apparently mindful of a possible backlash from Asian neighbors such as China and South Korea, Koizumi moved quickly to reassure the world that his government would not break with the nuclear taboo.

"My Cabinet will keep the non-nuclear weapon principles, Koizumi told reporters in Seoul late on Friday.

"Japan will not possess a nuclear arsenal because we have these principles."

Shortly after returning from Seoul, Koizumi reiterated his commitment to a nuclear-free Japan. "This is not even worthy of serious discussion," Koizumi told reporters at his official residence.

The mayor of Hiroshima, the city destroyed by the world's first nuclear bomb on Aug. 6, 1945, added his voice to the debate.

"I am concerned that the ultimate goal for the government is to become a country with nuclear weapons," Kyodo quoted Tadatoshi Akiba as saying.

"The remarks will create a sense of mistrust about Japan abroad and lead to increased risk of nuclear proliferation."

The controversial statement by the senior government official was the latest in a string of remarks by hawkish officials and politicians seeking to challenge Japan's postwar pacifism. *Reuters*

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St.,Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Marijuana fields harnessed for silk

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Malacañang won't be hiring Spiderman to spin silk for the country's rather depressed garments industry.

The government is harnessing tillers of marijuana plantations to run a proposed sericulture network that would operate on 300,000 hectares of Cordillera farmlands where high-value marijuana fields are found.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER referred to a Filipino-Italian firm, which had been negotiating with the Department of Agrarian Reform about introducing top-quality mulberry silk farms on marijuana-infested land.

Jude Wal, a former DAR Cagayan Valley assistant director, who is detailed under the office of Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, said he brokered the venture between DAR and Phil Italia Inc. executive Narda Capuyan as a poverty-alleviation strategy aimed at reducing violence in the Cordillera.

His report to Braganza says the plan has good chances of succeeding.

Wal explained that the tillers are paid P2,000 to P3,000 per hectare by middlemen to allow the marijuana to grow on their plantations.

"But we are offering the farmers up to P8,250 each month for every family, just to maintain a hectare planted with mulberry trees where the cocoons will be nurtured," he said.

The project's feasibility study indicates that a plantation's harvest each year can earn P396,000 worth of raw cocoon silk. "That's four times the revenue from rice or corn per hectare," Wal said.

Pilot test sites in the Cordillera will cover 7,742 hectares of mulberry tree farms. Silkworms feed on the mulberry leaves and use the trees to shield their cocoons.

Wal spent months negotiating access to the marijuana plantations with its tillers, as well as armed groups like the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) and the New People's Army.

The project document included endorsements from key leaders like Supply Alunday, a commander of the CPLA loyal to slain rebel priest Conrado Balweg, and James Sawatang, commander of a CPLA Kalinga unit that broke away from Balweg.

Malacañang is expected to sink in up to P800 million for the 20-year sericulture network, which will be operated exclusively by Igorot farmers "according to their tribes' customs and traditions."

Phil Italia will buy and process the silk to be sold here and abroad. The region will have to produce a set quota of orders starting with 7,500 kilos of raw silk on the first year of the project's operations.

"The project targets 92 contiguous barangays in 35 towns of all six provinces in the Cordillera. These (CPLA) commanders agreed in principle to allow the project to operate unhampered because it will be located in very poor Cordillera areas," Wal said.

Catholics ask bishop to relieve priest

BAGABAG, Nueva Vizcaya—Members of the Catholic Church here have urged Bishop Ramon Villena of the Diocese of Bayombong and Quirino to relieve the parish priest here due to his alleged lack of fitness to manage a parish and loss of confidence.

In a petition signed by 2,000 parishioners, the Alliance of Concerned Citizens against Oppression, Repression of Rights and Dishonesty in the church (Accorrd) accused Msgr. Vicente Emilio Tugadi of St. Jerome's parish here of arrogance, non-transparency and dictatorial style of management of the parish.

They also accused Tugadi of leading what they called an "ostentatious lifestyle." They also assailed him for his "discriminatory" treatment of poor families in his parish.

"He nonchalantly turns away indigent parishioners, and refuses to give final sacrament rites to the dead whose families cannot afford the prescribed fees. He also refuses to administer baptismal rites to very sick babies for reasons that it was not on his schedule," Cayetano Bacani, an Accorrd member, said.

Tom Gumiran, another Accorrd member, said Tugadi also caused the removal "without reason and justification" of several poor families from the list of those receiving scholarship funds from the Jales Foundation of Holland.

But Tugadi said Accorrd's claims are mere fabrications.

"I never refused anybody (who requested me) to give Mass and I have all the documents to show that I did not do any illegal or immoral acts," he told reporters here.

He said he was willing to dialogue with the complaining Accorrd members "because it is only through a dialogue with proper atmosphere and intention that we can resolve these things."

"What is ridiculous in all these moves against me is that there are some people who anointed themselves to represent these people without asking their permission," he said.

Villena denounced the wall painting assailing Tugadi as "a deplorable act and an ugly situation." "This act of vandalism is a show of cowardice and criminal act not only against Monsignor Tugadi but also against the people of Bagabag, the entire Diocese of Bayombong and civil society of Nueva Vizcaya," Villena said in a statement.

He said he had invited the parishioners to have a dialogue with Tugadi this week but "they had gone ahead with this deplorable act."

"My heart bleeds for Monsignor Tugadi and the people of Bagabag when we allow a small number of people to destroy the town," he added. ***Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Appointment of new teachers in Bicol delayed

NAGA CITY—Classes begin tomorrow, but the appointment of new teachers is being hindered by the delay in the issuance of the "authority to fill up positions" by the Department of Budget and Management, said Teresita Naz, director of the Department of Education (DepEd) in Bicol yesterday.

Naz said the "authority to fill up positions" which the DBM issues, is a requirement to new appointments of teachers.

She said they could not hire new teachers and appoint them to their respective school assignments because it is the DBM that determines and allocates their salaries.

She said the DepEd in Bicol has already decided appointees to new teaching positions even as the approved number of additional teachers is still way below the actual need.

Naz revealed that the DBM has sent them only 15 letters of "authority to fill up positions" for the Calabanga district.

She said the DepEd Bicol office has finalized 407 appointees to new teaching positions but the DBM has yet to send them 302 letters of authority.

With the enrollment in the secondary schools estimated to increase by eight percent and elementary schools by five percent, the number of new teachers needed is at least 2,000. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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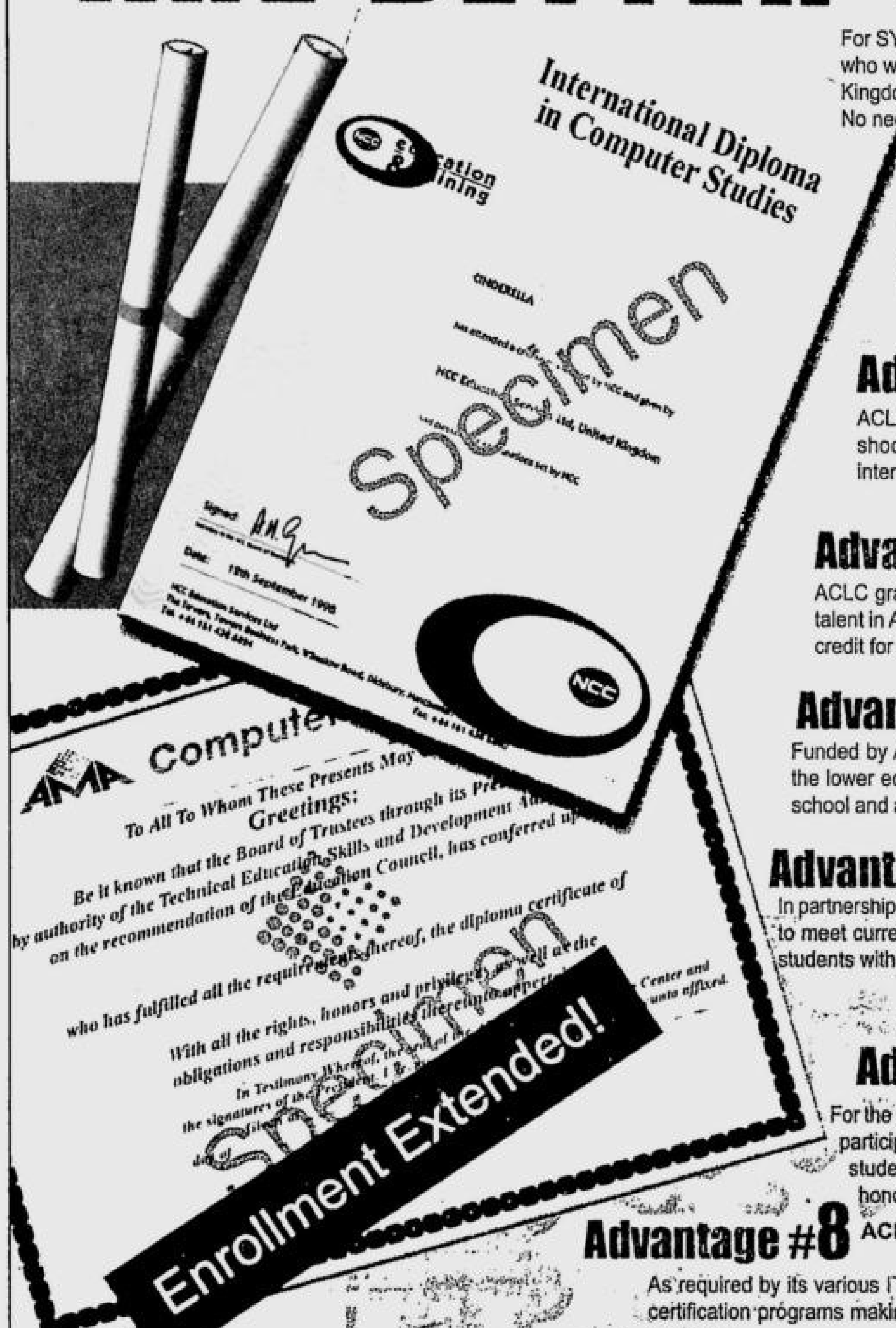
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INQUIRER*Mindanao*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◎ *Bureau Chief* **Nico A. Alconaba**

ARUMANEN Manuvu dancers perform their regular Saturday afternoon "sayaw" in Bentangan, an indigenous people's community in Carmen, Cotabato, as a way of promoting peace and casting away evil spirits.

RYAN ANSON

Whom the gods wish to live in peace

By Yul A. Olaya

Contributor

A FEW weeks ago, Kamid tied together the legs of two wild boars and loaded them onto his *bangka*. He paddled against the strong current of the Maridagao River and docked in a forested ravine.

After deciding that no one saw him land on the river's rocky shoreline, Kamid walked a short distance and gave the exotic pigs to two indigenous Arumanen Manuvu men who had cautiously waited for him farther up the bank.

Immediately after making his clandestine yet warmly received delivery, Kamid returned to his home several kilometers away.

That day, every Arumanen Manuvu family in Bentangan, Carmen; Cotabato received a portion of the pork that Kamid had graciously, albeit secretly, given to the community.

Kamid is one of the many Muslims who once lived in Bentangan side-by-side with the Arumanen Manuvu, the indigenous people in the area. Yet his old farm is now vacant because several years ago, he moved out of Bentangan and settled in a place several kilometers away. In fact, the people of Bentangan can point out Kamid's new home, which is situated farther down the windy Maridagao River.

These days though, they cannot freely visit each other's place whenever they feel the urge to share a cup of coffee or a warm meal. Sadly, suspicion has become one of the long-term consequences of renewed armed conflict in the last several years, and now prevents people of different faiths and cultural worldviews from living together as neighbors.

Bentangan was not always characterized by an atmosphere of mistrust and fear. It was once a dynamic and relatively peaceful community originally inhabited by Arumanen Manuvu who willingly accommodated their Moro brothers, as well as Visayan settlers.

At some point in time, they established a mini-market in the middle of the nearby mountains at a place called Mara-Mara where they exchanged goods and interacted in mutually beneficial ways.

Timuey Rufino Mampurok, who was a businessman at that time, recalled: "We used to exchange our root crops with salt from our Muslim brothers and textiles from the Visayans."

Indeed, an inextricable bond existed between the Arumanen Manuvu and the Muslims in the area.

2 brothers

Timuey Alampa Mandil revealed the story of Apo Tabunaway and Apo Mamalu, who were brothers, in an effort to point out the common roots of Muslims and the Arumanen Manuvu.

"Apo Tabunaway converted to Islam and decided to live in the coastal areas. Apo Mamalu, on the other hand, followed the downward route of Pulangi River and reached Aruman, thereby giving birth to the Arumanen Manuvu tribe," he said.

In the early 1960s, Kagi Manalos gave the Arumanen Manuvu the popular Muslim sword called the kris as a symbol of unity and brotherhood between the two groups. "*Kiping*," as the Arumanen Manuvu called it, was eternal, and they vowed never to lose it.

Even at the height of the Ilaga-Blackshirt conflict during the 1970s, Kagi Bedo Matalam was a frequent visitor in the community. Along with his band of armed men, he usually stopped in Bentangan while on patrol and visited the house of Datu Sapalaw Mampurok who was then the respected "*tigulang*" or elder of the tribe. Kagi Bedo always made it a point to pay homage to the *tigulang* in the same way a son respects his father.

In the 1980s, Commander Jack and Commander Paking, both of whom were believed to be part of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front command, also gave their unsolicited assurance to Datu Sapalaw that they would help maintain the security of Bentangan.

This hospitality among the Arumanen Manuvu symbolizes one of the basic tenets of their Langkat religion.

Messages

Ala-ta-Ala, the god of all gods, and Magbabaya, the creator, continue to send messages through the *gimukod* or souls, and the *lumuna* or goddesses of the earth to the people of the community. These messages are conveyed during important feasts and gatherings like the *samayaan*, *guana* and *kanduli*.

During these occasions, the *wali-an*, the clairvoyant traditional doctor of the tribe, is possessed by the *gimukod* or *lumuna* and speaks the words of the gods.

Throughout his life as a leader in Bentangan, Datu Sapalaw consistently followed these messages. All his decisions were made in accordance with the will of the great spirits, especially those related to issues of peace, oneness and humility.

His generosity and hospitality were admired and followed by everyone, including strangers. He was the one who strongly pronounced to the whole community that it should never use guns nor kill fellow human beings. The people willingly embraced his pronouncements as divine messages from the gods.

During the time of Datu Sapalaw, many Moro and Christian families were accommodated by the community and given parcels of land to farm. This enhanced the harmonious and productive relationship of the three people groups. As a result, collective farming became a common practice in this unique, tri-people community.

Creeping violence

However, before Datu Sapalaw died in 1998, he noticed with regret that violence began to creep into their ancestral domain.

In 1995, a strafing incident occurred in Sitio Kumarit, which left a man dead, and a woman and her daughter wounded. During that same year, instances of cattle rustling increased as various groups of armed men began to roam the hills near Bentangan looking for bounty.

In April of 1995, Commander Jack of the MILF visited Bentangan again and encouraged Datu Sapalaw to finally take up arms in order to defend their place from any *dautan* or evil doers. Yet Datu Sapalaw resisted and continued to maintain an unarmed community.

Because of their decision to remain unarmed and hospitable toward Muslims, the military labeled them as MILF sympathizers.

In 1996, the Army's 3rd Infantry Battalion visited Bentangan and convinced Datu Sapalaw to arm his people. It was a hard compromise on the part of the Arumanen Manuvu. Throughout their lives they were taught to interact with both people and nature in peaceful ways. It was indeed a real dilemma for this group of deeply pious indigenous people whose gods and goddesses never permitted them to use guns or any other instruments of war.

However, under pressure from various conflict-prone groups, they began to run out of options. They felt forced to side with either the government or the MILF.

After much deliberation, the *tigulang*, or the respected elders, along with the *timuey* or local chiefs, and the barangay council unanimously decided to conform with the position of the government.

Left without any option, almost every man in the community is now part of the Civilian Volunteer Organization (CVO) while some of them joined the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu).

Terms of warfare

Timuey Modesto Egsolin said, "It is only now in my 60s that I am able to carry this gun," proudly displaying an M-1 30-cal. US-made rifle.

Over time, the men have become well versed with different kinds of guns.

Their vocabulary now includes terms of warfare such as "perimeter of defense" and "reconnaissance-gunshots." They built barricades in every sitio, which are manned by a small squad of CVOs at night. They also conduct surveillance patrols at daytime.

Their hand-held communication sets are always turned on to receive any emergency instructions from the barangay chair and other CVOs or Cafgus.

In April 2000, when the firefights and mortar bombardments between the MILF and the government forces surged to unprecedented levels, particularly in remote areas, Bentangan was transformed into a battlefield. The Arumanen Manuvu CVOs and Cafgus took their turn on the frontline. They fought well and defended their place against intrusion from the armed groups.

Kagawad Filemon Lantong entrusted their victory to the gods. "It was the work of Magbabaya, the *gimukod* and the *limuna* that gave us protection. They (the gods) will never allow us to be displaced, for this (Bentangan) is the holy place of the Arumanen Manuvu," he claimed as an M-14 rifle dangled heavily from his shoulder.

State of alert

For more than three years, the people of Bentangan have been living in a constant state of alert. They can barely tend to their meager farms, which struggle to yield anything even during a normal harvest season. If farmers take the risk and venture out to their small plots of corn and vegetables, two or three-armed CVOs would always accompany them.

Dario Maximo, 44, has nine children to feed but no carabao to plough his field. After his prized animal was stolen by rustlers last year, Maximo decided to join the CVO and received nothing but a rifle. Now he is caught in a very problematic dilemma.

"What will I do with this rifle when this cannot plow the field?" he asked.

Manang Lydia Pobre, a woman leader of the tribe, also poses a salient question: "Until when shall we be on alert?"

They spend most of their time securing the area against possible attacks from any armed group. Day in and day out, they always remain on guard, aware that armed confrontation can happen at any moment. At night, while the CVOs assume their positions at the barricades, the whole community slumbers in absolute silence.

Kagawad Anastacio Pendacupan confusingly admits, "We really do not know what drives us to this kind of situation despite the words of Datu Sapalaw."

The irony is so apparent in this context of fear and hostility. While they easily admit that they are peace-loving people, Bentangan's residents regularly carry instruments of war. And while they frequently cast out the community's bad energy through their prayerful *sayawan* every Saturday, they are also slowly closing the door on their Muslim brothers.

Worst enemies

This war, supposedly a conflict between the MILF and government forces, is now being translated into a clash of two legitimate ethnic groups who originally descended from the same blood. It is now apparent that two communities who were once the best of friends are now becoming the worst of enemies.

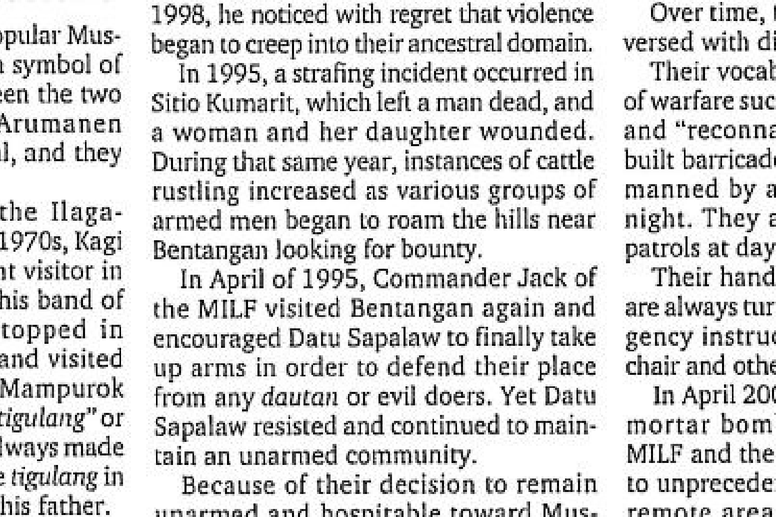
However, a few weeks ago, a sign of hope was whispered to the ears of Timuay Modesto Egsolin as he visited the *poblacion* of Carmen during market day.

A very familiar Muslim datu, one of the Arumanen Manuvu's best friends who happened to be a leader of an armed group, invited Timuey Egsolin for a brief discussion in a place where no one else could hear them. In this secret location, the man expressed his group's intention to hold an informal peace dialogue with the indigenous people in Bentangan.

Although it is a long way away from being embedded in fertile ground, this positive development marks new potential for planting the seeds of peace in Bentangan. Inter-group dialogue may even create an opportunity for Kamid and his family, along with his Muslim relatives, to return to Bentangan and live in coexistence with their Arumanen Manuvu sisters and brothers.

Yet the *tigulang*, the *timuey* and the barangay council still have to think deeply about the proposal of their Muslim friend. If they agree to some form of discussion, the two groups may be able to resurrect a semblance of their once mutually enhancing relationship.

It will be a dialogue that the gods of the Arumanen-Manuvu will look kindly upon.



BENTANGAN barangay chair Dahel Mampurok and "timuey" Apolonio Panday, the leader of the mortals, greet head "walian" Franklin Salilin, who was possessed by a Muslim spirit during the Guana ceremony. Concerned about peace and order in their village, the two officials inquire about an armed encounter in nearby Barangay Rancho.

RYAN ANSON

***YUL A. OLAYA**, a community organizer from the Notre Dame University's Peace Education Center in Cotabato City, works in war-affected communities in parts of Central Mindanao. He is currently involved in spreading the culture of peace through inter-religious dialogue and peace-building forums at the grass-roots level.*

***RYAN ANSON** is a freelance photojournalist currently based in Cotabato City. He is working on a picture book about the ongoing struggle for peace in Central Mindanao's conflict-affected communities. His works have appeared in many publications, including The Washington Post, The Herald Mail and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.*

Lopez: Meralco not for sale at any price

From page A1

day, the family's shareholdings in the company should be worth about P9.35 billion.

Yet even at this price, or even with a substantial margin, and despite the immense relief it is bound to bring, selling Meralco has never been an option, Lopez said.

Family heirloom

Meralco is considered a Lopez family heirloom.

The firm began as the Manila Electric Rail and Light Co. on Jan. 20, 1906, when an American investor, Charles Swift, obtained a franchise for the construction, maintenance and operation of an electric railway and a light heat power system from Manila to Pasig.

The company was still under American control when the Lopezes bought into it in 1962.

The family acquired Meralco from the General Public Utilities Corp. of New York. Bankers regarded the deal as the year's largest company takeover worldwide.

At the time, Meralco was the largest electricity distribution company in the Philippines, accounting for 60 percent of the market.

In 1972, the Marcos martial law administration seized control of Meralco. The eldest son of the billionaire patriarch, Eugenio Lopez Sr., was sent to jail. The family went into exile.

In 1977, Eugenio Lopez Jr. and his cellmate, Sergio Osmeña, escaped from jail and joined the anti-Marcos forces in the United States.

As is still true today, politics has played a big part in the family's fortunes. The takeover of the family holdings was apparently the result of the Lopezes' falling out with Marcos in the 1970s.

Fernando Lopez, a brother of Lopez Sr., had been a three-term vice president, two of them under Marcos.

After Marcos was ousted from power in 1986, Lopez Jr. returned to the Philippines and recovered most of the family's confiscated holdings, including Meralco.

Intense pressure

The Lopez family has been under intense pressure over accusations that Meralco has been overcharging its customers.

An independent study sent to Malacañang concluded that Meralco had been overcharging its 3.4 million customers by as much as 40.8 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

The study said Meralco should reduce its rates by the same amount instead of seeking a rate increase of P1.12 per kWh.

Elpi Cuna, Meralco director for corporate communications, said the report was nothing new.

"This is just a rehash of reports in 1998 that we were 'overcharging' our customers," he said.

The Energy Regulatory Board, the precursor of the Energy Regulatory Commission, ordered Meralco in 1998 to refund its customers about P11 billion after the ERB found Meralco to have been "overbilling" its customers.

Cuna said the Court of Appeals had cleared Meralco of allegations of overcharging in 1999 and that the case was now with the Supreme Court.

Opening up market

The congressional move to have the government take over Meralco came after legislators learned that the ERC had ordered the utility to stop the unauthorized collection of "deferred" purchased power adjustment charges.

The PPA charges represent the cost of the power that Meralco and other distributors buy from the generating sector, either from the National Power Corp. or the independent power producers.

Meralco chair Manolo Lopez has proposed that the solution might be to open up the electricity market while regulating it.

"Give the customers a freedom of choice," he said, citing the case of the telecoms industry.

"After liberalization, there were no more complaints against the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.," he said.

The PLDT had a monopoly of the domestic telecommunications industry until competition was allowed in 1995.

"Whoever wins the customer deserves to stay," Lopez said.

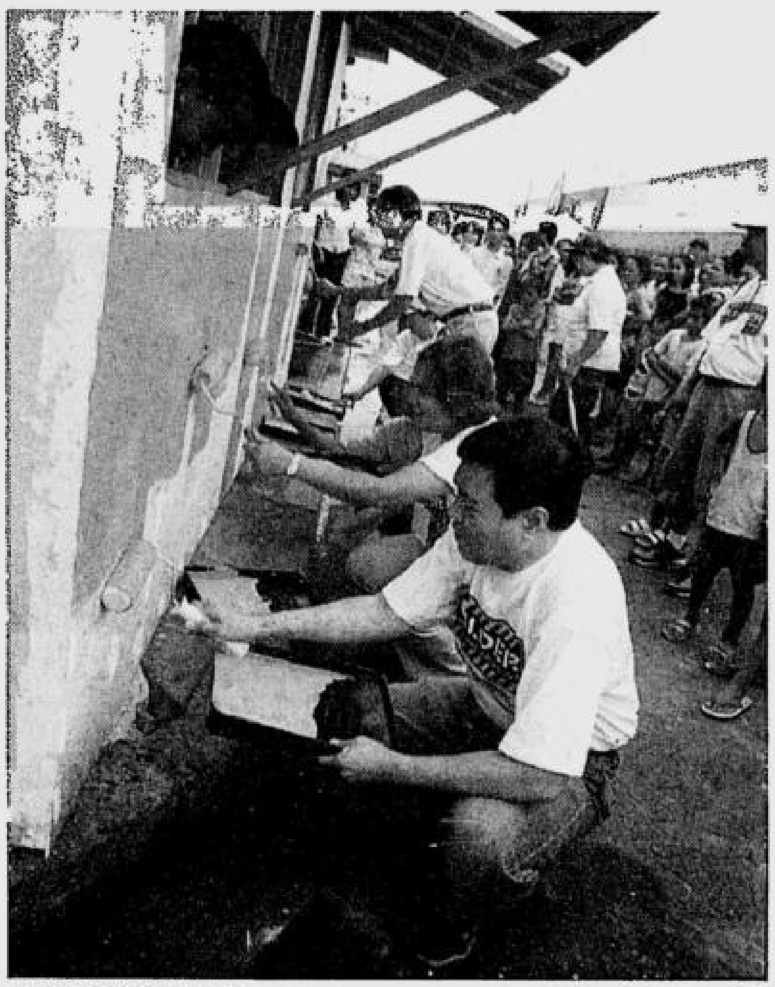
The Electric Power Industry Reform Act provides for the open access to the power distribution sector not later than June 2004.

This means opening up the franchise areas of distribution utilities and electric cooperatives to other suppliers.

Meralco's franchise covers Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Rizal and certain parts of Batangas, Laguna, Quezon and Pampanga.

At least 3.7 million customers buy their electricity from Meralco.

The Lopez group is also engaged in power generation (First Generation Holdings Corp.), broadcasting (ABS-CBN Corp.) and water services (Maynilad Water). ***With a report from Ronnel W. Domingo***



HELPING HAND
Sen. Manny Villar and members of the Couples for Christ roll a coat of paint on one of the newly-finished houses built on what used to be the garbage dump called Smokey Mountain in Tondo. Yesterday's civic action was part of the Couples for Christ's Help Build a Home Project. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

A graduate, finally

From page A1

with Oscars and plaudits galore, but for the last three decades he has cherished the one thing that eluded him—a college degree.

That was remedied on Friday when Spielberg, 55, walked across the stage at California State University at Long Beach wearing a cap and gown to receive his bachelor of arts degree in film and electronic arts.

As his name was called the college band struck up with theme tune from "Indiana Jones," the movie trilogy he directed, and the audience applauded.

His fellow graduates, for the most part, may have been more than 20 years his junior but the gray-haired, bearded, bespectacled Spielberg carried his scroll of honor as proudly as any of them.

Spielberg, who won Academy Awards for producing and directing "Schindler's List" and for directing "Saving Private Ryan," posed for pictures with his fellow honorees on the campus lawn and smiled broadly as he was showered with confetti at the college 40 kilometers south of Los Angeles.

He already has five honorary doctorates—the latest bestowed upon him by Yale University earlier this week—but what he really wanted was a humble bachelor's degree.

Why? Because he earned it.

"I would say this meant more to Steven than the honorary doctorates because, after all, they are honors and they're very nice to have, but this (the degree) is something you achieve and you go back and do something your parents really wanted you to do," said Spielberg's longtime spokesperson, Marvin Levy.

"He had a tremendous time today. It was very exhilarating for him. It meant a lot to him," Levy added.

Spielberg, who dropped out 33 years ago to pursue his dream of making movies, quietly resumed his studies at Cal State's Department of Film and Electronic Arts last Spring, and completed his degree requirements through independent and directed studies.

Most of Spielberg's old professors were dead or retired by the time he returned to classes, and ironically he ended up working with younger professors, some of whom who actually learned their craft by studying his works.

To pass the advanced filmmaking class exam—the most important in the course—Spielberg submitted "Schindler's List."

'I think that counts as an advanced . . . polished film," quipped Sharyn Blumenthal, director of the school's Films and Electronic Arts Department.

Thank you to his parents

He said recently his parents were the motivation behind his wish to graduate.

"I wanted to accomplish this for many years as a 'thank you' to my parents for giving me the opportunity for an education and a career, and as a personal note for my own family—and young people everywhere—about the importance of achieving their college education goals," he said.

"But I hope they get there quicker than I did. Completing the requirements for my degree 33 years after finishing my principal education marks my longest 'post-production schedule.'"

Rejected twice

After graduating high school in Phoenix, Spielberg applied to the University of Southern California film school twice and both times was turned down.

But he doesn't bear a grudge and now sits on the board of councilors of the very school that rejected him.

Spielberg began his college work at Cal State in 1965 but left the school three years later to pursue what he hoped would be a successful professional career in filmmaking. The following year, his 22-minute short film, "Amblin," was shown at the Atlanta Film Festival, which led to his becoming the youngest director ever to be signed to a long-term contract with a major Hollywood studio.

Among the other films he has directed are "The Color Purple," "Jaws," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "E.T., the Extra-Terrestrial," the "Indiana Jones" trilogy and "Jurassic Park." ***Reuters***

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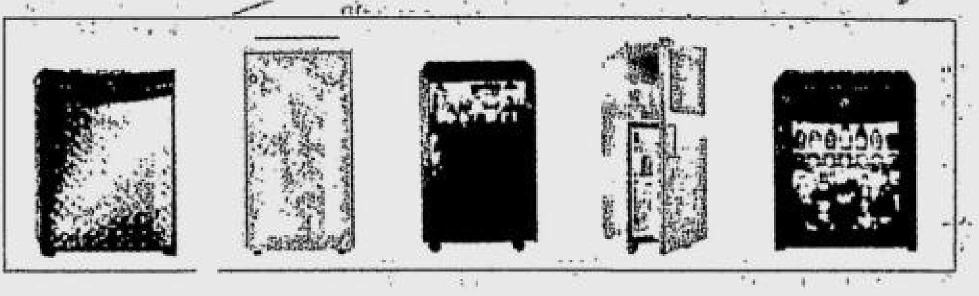

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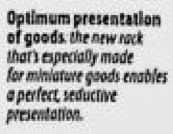

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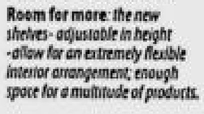

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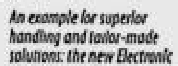

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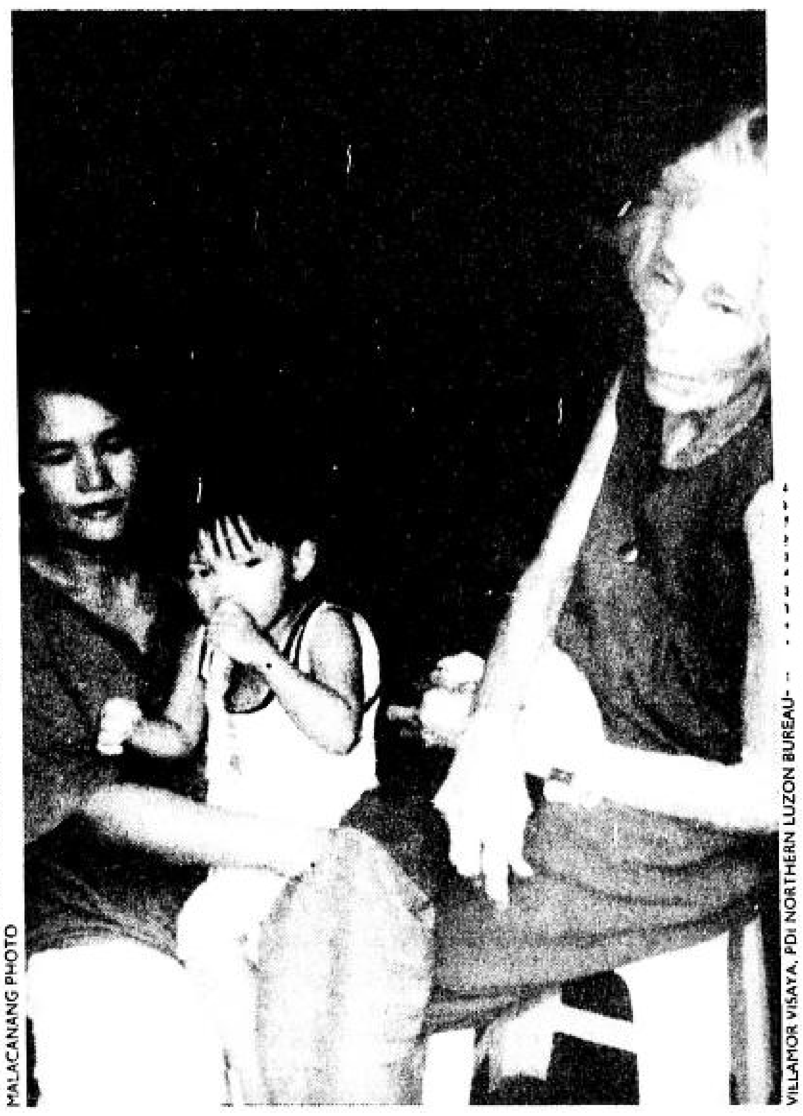
VILLAMOR VISAYA, PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

MOURNERS: As cameras click away, President Macapagal-Arroyo pays her respects on the young victim of Friday's hostage drama, Dexter Balala, in San Fernando, Pampanga, while his parents sit and watch (above). At right, relatives of the hostage taker, Diomedes Talvo, are no less disconsolate as they await his body in San Mateo, Isabela. They are his common-law-wife Lydia, son Jonas and mother Rosita.

'Cops killed my son'

From page A1

edly stabbed the boy.

Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, director of the Southern Police District, said Balala "died from shock due to stab wounds and gunshot wounds."

"So I think both the stab and gunshot wounds were contributory to his death," Gutierrez said.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said President Macapagal-Arroyo was holding the Pasay policemen at the scene responsible for Balala's death.

"This is a clear case of poor indoctrination and indecision on the part of the responding authorities," Afable said, quoting the President. "She's looking forward to the full investigation as promised by police authorities, not only to determine the culpability of police officers who were there, but to reexamine the operational procedures of the police so that such incidents are not repeated."

However, Afable added: "This is an isolated incident and should not be imputed on the leadership of the Philippine National Police."

Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales, chair of the House committee on civil, political and human rights, said it was police incompetence that led to Balala's death.

"Little Dexter had to die to dramatize the gross incompetence of the police in handling crisis situations. This has to be investigated immediately," she said adding that her committee would look into the lack of police preparedness and skills in hostage negotiations and rescue.

Rosales said members of the media should also be criticized for adding to the chaotic situation.

"But it's good that the media were able to show (the incident) to the nation so that authorities won't be able to just sweep it under the rug," she added.

Charges

Aglipay said the empty shells and slugs recovered from the scene would be matched with the results of paraffin and ballistics tests to determine who among the policemen fired their guns.

The 19 policemen who took part in the operation submitted to paraffin tests at the SPD headquarters yesterday. Their guns were also subjected to a ballistics test.

"If evidence warrants, homicide charges will be filed against the cops who fired their guns," Aglipay said.

Criminal and administrative charges have been recommended filed against 10 Pasay policemen and three of their superiors, including Supt. Eduardo de la Cerna, the former chief of the city's police force.

A report submitted by Chief Insp. Reynaldo Baral, head of Pasay's Police Criminal and Investigation unit, to Supt. Amante Bersamin, the city's police officer in charge, named the 10 as Police Officers 3 Jose Jonard Castro and Rodolfo Soquina; Police Officers 2 Renato Lleano, Ashley Gamulo, and Raymond Sabrino; and Police Officers 1 Jayjay Martinez, Roland Garcia, Domingo Landoy, Lemuel Galang and Christopher Torres.

They will be charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and murder and "probable violation of the rules of engagement" before the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office.

The 10, along with De la Cerna, will be charged with "serious irregularities in the performance of their duties."

Chief Insp. Simon Gonzales, chief of Pasay's Special Action Team unit, and Insp. James Turdilla, head of the Motorcycle Quick Response Team, are also facing administrative charges for "serious neglect of duty" after having been found not "able to supervise their personnel" at the scene.

Baral's report, however, also said that the police had "no intention to kill" Balala, and that the death of Talvo "arose from his action of taking (the boy) hostage."

Lleano and Castro were the first two members of Pasay's SWAT team at the scene.

De la Cerna, who was due to retire next month, was the highest-ranking police officer present. Aglipay sacked him Friday.

'Paikot-ikot'

Salvacion Balala and her son were at the bus terminal waiting for an early ride to San Fernando when the hostage taking occurred. They had just come from Camarines Sur, where they marked the death anniversary of Salvacion's mother.

According to Salvacion, who is two months pregnant with her second child, the policemen at the scene wasted time. "*Paikot-ikot sila* (They were going in circles)," was how she described their behavior during the early moments of the hostage taking.

"*Titiyempo lang kami* (We'll wait for the proper timing)," she quoted the policemen as saying before they took her to a patrol car some 30 minutes after the nightmare began. Until the standoff ended at 3:15 a.m. and up to 7 a.m. when the policemen took her to the San Juan de Dios Hospital, Salvacion said, she was made to believe that her son was alive.

"They repeatedly assured me my son was OK," she said.

It was the hospital guard, a native of Bicol like the Balala family, who told Salvacion that the boy was dead.

Salvacion said the policemen did not tell her which stab or shot was fatal. "There were so many policemen there, but I was told that not all fired their guns," she said. "I want to know who exactly hit my son. Why did they not spare my son?"

The boy's father, Darius, who was in Pampanga all that time and heard about the incident on the radio, said he wished that those responsible for the "bungled rescue" would be identified, charged and punished.

Salvacion said: "I hope there will be no whitewash." said.

Bicycle

Even in grief, the Balalas made sure their child got his last wish. A brand-new plastic bicycle—worth P650 and bought through the donations of their neighbors along the abandoned railway in the barangay—stood next to the boy's coffin.

"We loved him so much. It pains us to lose him," Darius said.

The President traveled to San Fernando yesterday to condole with the bereaved family.

She arrived at 3:50 p.m. at the Balala residence in Barangay Maimpis and spoke with the family for 15 minutes behind closed doors.

Juanita Balala, an aunt of the dead boy, quoted the President as saying that she had ordered an investigation and would do "everything" to have the case resolved.

Ms Macapagal brought a Mass card and flowers and left a black box containing P10,000.

Provincial Administrator Benalfre Galang, an adviser of Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid, said the provincial government would consult with the Balalas as to pursuing the case against the Pasay policemen.

"(The people of Pampanga) who saw the incident on TV are very angry. They want justice for their *cabalen*," he said.

Galang also said the provincial government would give P20,000 in financial aid to the Balalas.

Too confident

De la Cerna continued to get the blame for the tragedy.

"Maybe he was too confident that his men could handle the situation," Aglipay said. "That's why he issued the instruction to neutralize the hostage-taker belatedly." Other officials, who asked not to be named, agreed with Aglipay's view, saying that De la Cerna was so confident that his men could wear Talvo out and thus did not see the need to immediately neutralize him.

De la Cerna, who acted as ground commander during the hostage taking, had earlier said that the situation "looked easy, but it was not."

Interior Secretary Jose Lina, speaking on his radio program on dzMM, ordered the PNP's Internal Affairs Service to complete its investigation within two weeks.

The NCRPO, IAS, Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management and Southern Police District have been ordered to investigate the criminal and administrative aspects of the case as well as the lapses of the policemen.

Lina also proposed that the PNP conduct a refresher course on crisis situations, such as hostage taking.

"Make a module out of this. The SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics unit) should study what happened so that we can learn corrective measures from this unfortunate incident," he said, addressing Aglipay. ***With reports from Juliet L. Javellana and Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

Hostage taker . . .

From page A1

wailing boy.

Grief and anger replaced shock among members of Talvo's family when they saw policemen peppering him with bullets in a belated attempt to rescue 4-year-old Dexter Balala.

"He was not the drug-crazed or deranged man that they pictured him to be," Talvo's wife Lydia Ganotice, 35, said yesterday. "They should have spared his life. He was very kind and loving. I don't know why they killed him."

The weeping Ganotice said Talvo, who farmed and raised ducks, was on his way to Mindanao to collect his three children from his first marriage.

She said one of Talvo's daughters had earlier told him that she wanted to stay with him in Isabela because someone had tried to rape her.

With P9,000 he raised from his small business, Talvo left their home Thursday to board a ship for Mindanao.

"I even cooked rice and a kilo of meat for his *baon*," Ganotice said.

Talvo's mother Rosita, 69, said she had estimated that he would be with his children in Mindanao by today. "But now," she said, "what we are waiting for is his body."

Rosita said that before her son left, she advised him to be calm when he got to his destination.

"I told him to stay with relatives and just ask that his children be brought to where he is staying to avoid the man who tried to rape his child," she said.

'Overkill'

Talvo's cousin Danilo said he was upset at seeing Talvo felled with bullets.

"That's overkill. (The policemen) should be charged," he said, adding that Talvo had no record of misbehavior in their village.

Rosita appealed to the public not to judge her son who, she said, could have been in a state of depression when he took the boy hostage.

"People did not understand him," she said.

Ganotice said Talvo "might have seen enemies in the area" and could have acted in self-defense.

She denied that Talvo was afflicted with a mental illness, but said he suffered a stroke a year ago.

Ganotice wondered about the future of her 3-year-old son, now that "he has no father to lean on."

"We are totally penniless now," she said.

Talvo's neighbors in Villa Cruz described him as kind and hardworking.

Jose Maneja, 65, said he believed that Talvo's sudden change of behavior might have been triggered by family problems.

"He was industrious. I don't know why he suddenly went berserk," Maneja said.

Rosita demanded justice for her son's death. "I hope our barangay officials and municipal leaders will help us pursue the case. Right now I'm shocked and confused," she said.

Abu Sayyaf children get new chance at life

From page A1

actors on the cover. They idolize Robin Padilla and we found it difficult to look for notebooks of that kind," Perez said in Filipino.

He said the boys were also fond of art materials like coloring books, pens and crayons.

But Sattar, a 7-year-old orphan, is worried about going back to school.

"*Takot akong mag-school. Takot ako sa mga ma'am at sir, hindi kasi ako marunong* (I'm afraid of going to school. I'm afraid of the teachers because I'm not smart)," he said.

The child was afraid he would be teased if he could not read. Perez assured him everything would be all right.

Sattar was in second grade when his parents died. Two of his brothers are still with the Abu Sayyaf.

Teachers as guides

Department of Education provincial superintendent Dr. Omar Aranan said the young former Abu Sayyaf members, as with other enrollees, are very much welcome to the public school system.

Aranan has already instructed the principals in schools where the children would be enrolling to help guide them.

He told the INQUIRER that at least five teachers were also advised to adopt some of the boys and help provide some of their needs such as notebooks, pens and uniforms.

But he urged the military to deploy plainclothes soldiers to guard the children.

"Their bandit friends might still be interested in getting them back," Aranan said.

He said some of the children might take the Philippine Educational Placement Test in September so they could be promoted to higher levels in school.

Perez said the military would continue to monitor the children to check their progress and see how they are reintegrating into the mainstream.

He said putting them in a common shelter would help achieve this.

"It has been a while since they left the mainstream and it would not be easy for them to adjust to a new environment," he said.

Father-rescuer

Perez said the boys appeared to be suffering from trauma after the Abu Sayyaf killed Sodor Sali, the barangay captain of Makiri, Lantawan, in an ambush last month.

Sali had convinced the boys to renounce their membership in the Abu Sayyaf and was killed by the bandit group when he refused to return them.

"He became a father for these kids, and his death has been painful for them," Perez said.

The boys had no intention of going back to the mainstream when Sali chanced upon them in Lantawan in January.

In fact, Abdul said, they were only on vacation.

He said Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya had told them to leave the mountains because it would be safer for them to be in the lowlands. The Balikatan, aimed at crushing the bandit group holed in mountains and jungles of Basilan, had already started at the time and the military had begun deploying more troops to the troubled island.

"He told us the Americans will run after us," Abdul said.

When they arrived in Lantawan, Sali saw them. The barangay official brought them to the headquarters of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade for questioning.

Then they were entrusted to the social welfare office, which has been taking care of them since.

Soldier-father

Sali's elder brother, Muds, said the children should be properly guided because it would be easy for them to go back to the Abu Sayyaf.

"If one of them recruited at least two members, then there would be 14 new Abu Sayyaf members. That would be a big number for a new generation of bandits," Muds noted.

He said that more than material needs, the children need the kind of guidance Perez is currently providing them.

Perez was given an extraordinary task by his commanders. In place of the slain Sali, he now acts as a second father to all the seven boys.

"I visit them every day. I take them around Zamboanga. I take them to Jollibee. Sometimes we go malling. I treat them like they were my own kids. This is one way to heal their trauma," Perez said.

During her recent visit here, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman made assurances that the agency would take charge of the children's needs, including their education, food, shelter and rehabilitation.

Parisya Taradji, Western Mindanao social welfare director, said the agency has allotted P2 million for the scholarship of the children and other victims of conflict in Basilan.

"Their parents will be provided with livelihood projects so that they could sustain the other educational needs of these kids," Taradji said.

She said former hostages of the bandit group are also entitled to the fund provided they continue their education.

"We always pay attention to young people like them. They could even become role models if they succeed." Taradji said.

(Editor's note: The children's names have been changed in this story to protect their welfare.)

Climaco 'knows something' about Piatco deal–solon

PRESIDENTIAL adviser Gloria Tan Climaco "knows something" that Malacañang does not want to be made public, House Deputy Minority Leader Abraham Mitra said yesterday.

Mitra assailed Malacañang for "interfering" with the arrest order issued by the Commission on Appointments for Climaco in connection with the confirmation hearings of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

"Why is Malacañang interfering with a co-equal branch of government? Are (its officials) afraid of the truth?" asked the representative from Palawan.

Mitra said that Climaco, his boss at the top accounting firm Sycip, Gorres & Velayo, was well-known for her credibility, and that the word in business and government circles was that she had uncovered irregularities in the contract between the government and the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. (Piatco).

"Somebody might have asked her to leave the country because after scrutinizing the contract, she felt very strongly that it was anomalous and should be renegotiated," Mitra said.

"She knows something that will cause a big stir if it comes out," he added. *Juliet L. Javellana*

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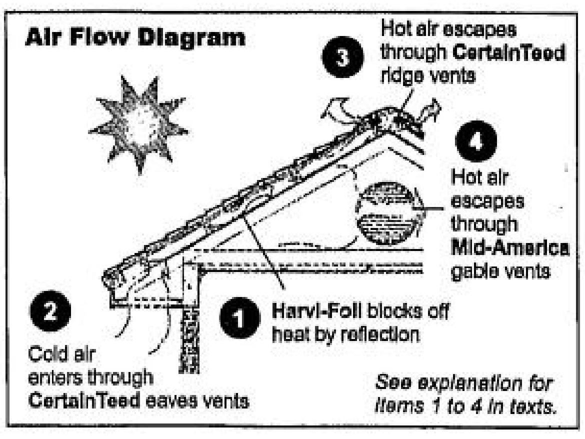
Air Flow Diagram
3 Hot air escapes through CertainTeed ridge vents
4 Hot air escapes through Mid-America gable vents
2 Cold air enters through CertainTeed eaves vents
1 Harvi-Foil blocks off heat by reflection
See explanation for items 1 to 4 in texts.

❶ You need **Harvi-Foil** insulation material that shields your roof from the sun's radiant heat by reflecting it back to the atmosphere. This foil works much like the silver lining of a thermos bottle that reflects heat back in the container and prohibits heat from escaping.

❷ **CertainTeed** eaves vents allow cool air to enter your roof interior.

❸ Your roof must have **CertainTeed** ridge vents that allow hot air building up in the roof interior to rise and escape outside.

❹ **Mid-America** gable vents allow hot air to dissipate in the atmosphere.

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An Urgent Appeal to H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Withdraw Support for Pantaleon Alvarez.

Cancel PIATCO Deal.

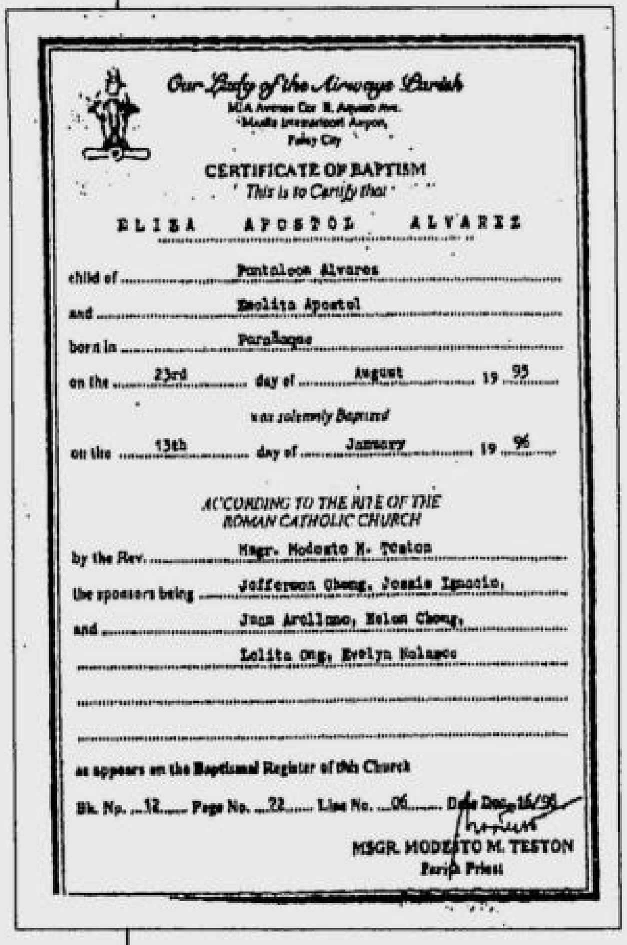
Madame President:

I am making this open, personal appeal to you as one of those who risked his life supporting your ascendancy as President of our Republic, and as one of those who continue to be committed to support your leadership.

Madame President, since you became President in January 20, 2001, you have designated and supported the confirmation by the Commission on Appointments (CA) of Mr. Pantaleon D. Alvarez as your Secretary of Transportation and Communications. And for the fourth time, this confirmation was by-passed by the CA, principally because of the determined efforts of oppositors who hold Mr. Alvarez responsible for his failure to protect and defend the interest of government in the NAIA IPT 3 BOT Project.

Tomorrow, June 3, 2002, the CA will resume what would likely be the last confirmation hearing before the Congress adjourns on June 6. However, there are indications that the CA will vote on this confirmation despite the non-appearance of key witnesses like Sec. Gloria Tan-Climaco, whose testimonies are critical to the proceeding, on the weight of your strong support for Mr. Alvarez.

Madame President, you cannot ignore the unmistakable and sinister involvement of Sec. Alvarez in plotting to defraud Government and the Filipino people in the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. Inc. (PIATCO) NAIA T3 deal, even as he continues to assert that his signature does not appear in any of the pertinent concession agreement and supplements. The incontrovertible facts clearly establish that Mr. Alvarez does not have the moral character and fitness to be DOTC Secretary.



Our Lady of the Airways Parish
MIA Avenue Cor. B. Aquino Ave.
Manila International Airport,
Pasay City

CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM
This is to Certify that

ELIZA APOSTOL ALVAREZ

child of Pantaleon Alvarez
and Emelita Apostol
born in Paranaque
on the 23rd day of August 19 95
was solemnly Baptized
on the 13th day of January 19 96

ACCORDING TO THE RITE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

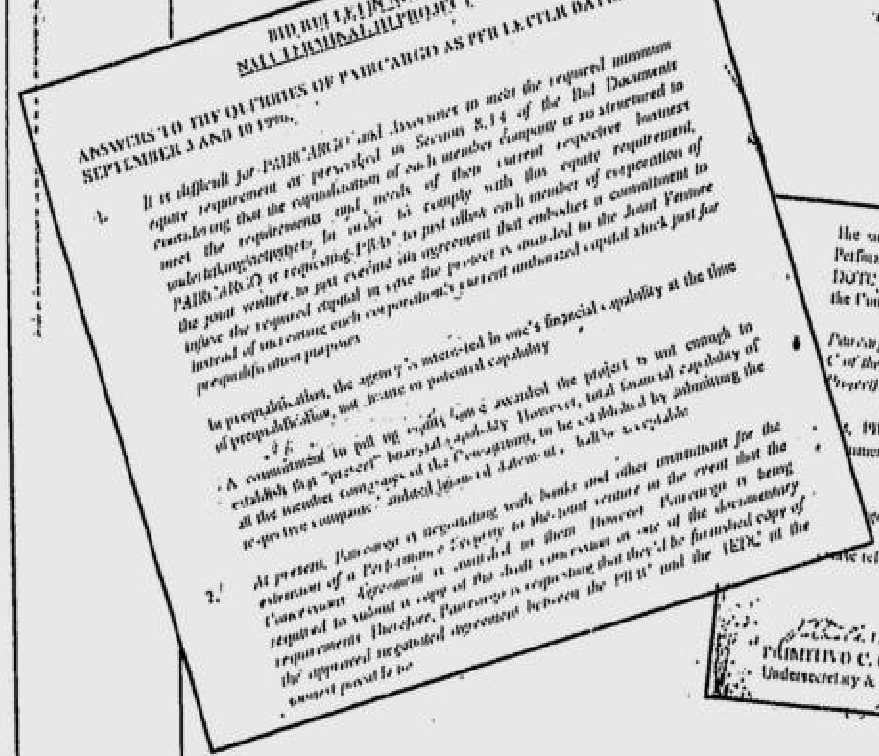
by the Rev. Msgr. Modesto M. Teston
the sponsors being Jefferson Cheng, Jossie Ignacio,
and Juan Arellano, Helen Cheng,
Lolita Ong, Evelyn Nolasco

as appears on the Baptismal Register of this Church
Bk. No. 12 Page No. 22 Line No. 06 Date Dec. 16/98

MSGR. MODESTO M. TESTON
Parish Priest

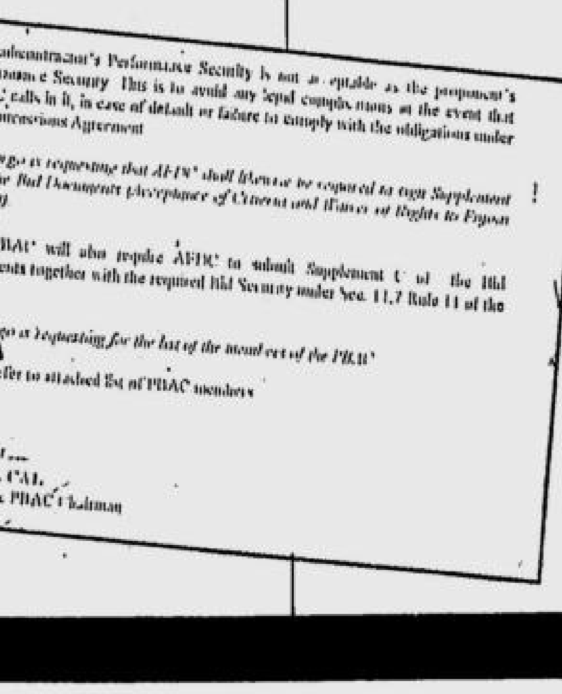
Mr. Alvarez, who was concurrently Senior Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer of NAIA of the PBAC Technical Working Committee of the T3 Project when the concession was awarded to PIATCO, significantly concealed the material fact that Jeffrey Cheng, a key owner of the company, was his "kumpadre".

As a result of this intimate connection, Mr. Alvarez, as Chairman of the Technical Working Committee, ignored the failure of PIATCO in meeting the capital and other financial requirements for the project that would have disqualified it from bidding for the contract.



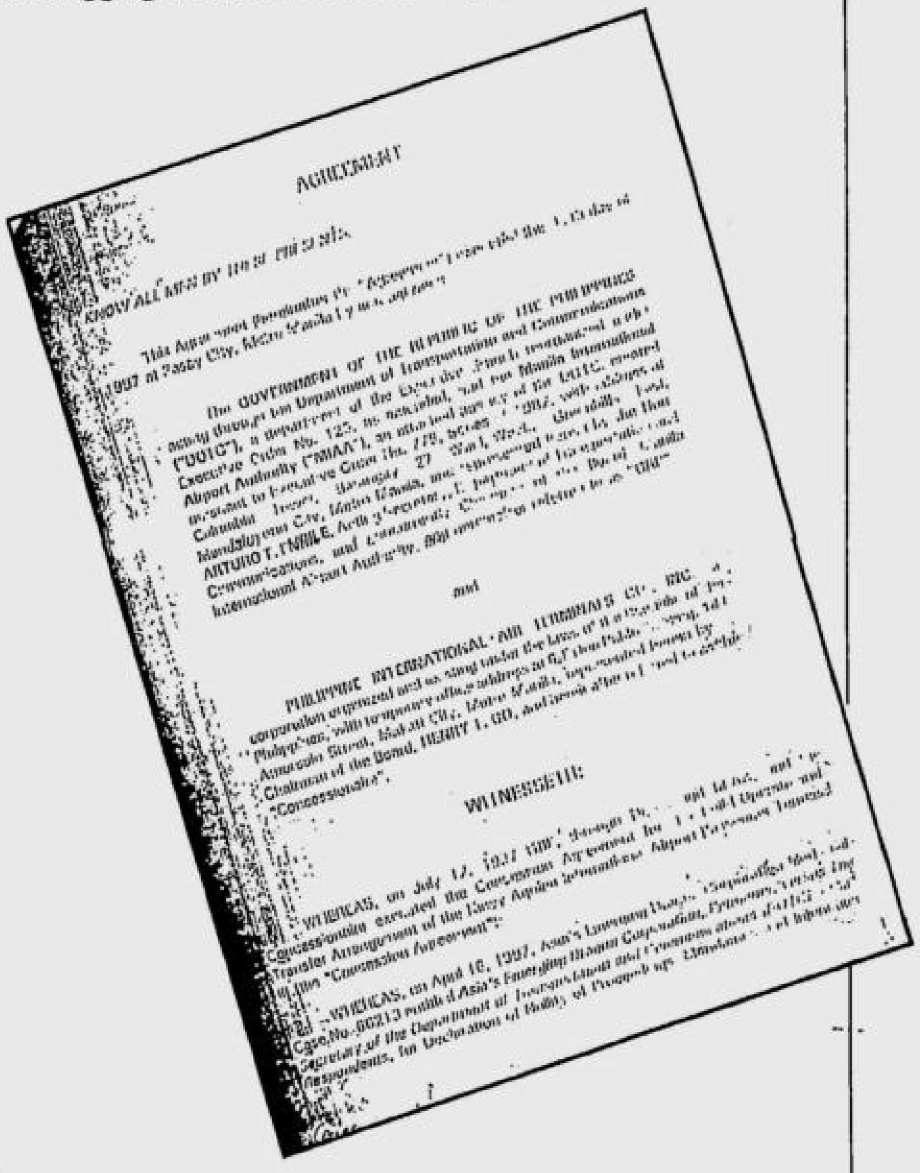
BID BULLETIN NO. 5
NAIA TERMINAL III PROJECT

ANSWERS TO THE QUERIES OF PAIRCARGO AS PER LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 3 AND 10 1996.



PRIMITIVO C. CAL
Undersecretary & PBAC Chairman

He also recommended the signing of an agreement on July 12, 1997 that made it extremely difficult for government to cancel the original Concession Agreement if the award to PIATCO, which was questioned by AEDC in court, were nullified. Consequently, this assured the bagging of PIATCO of the T3 Project.

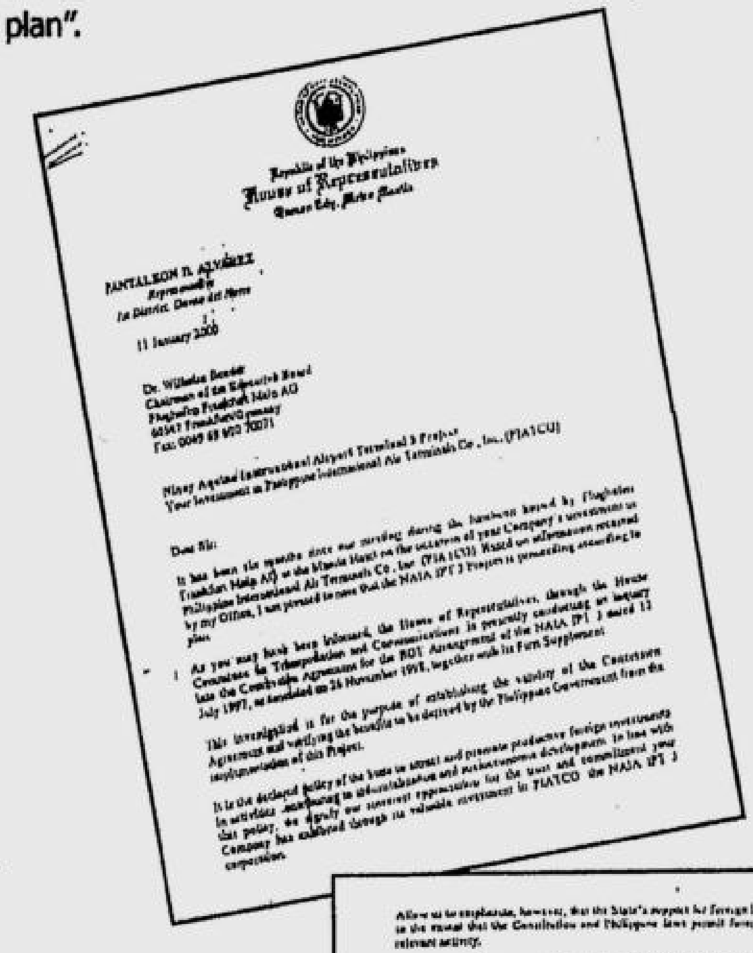


AGREEMENT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

WITNESSETH:

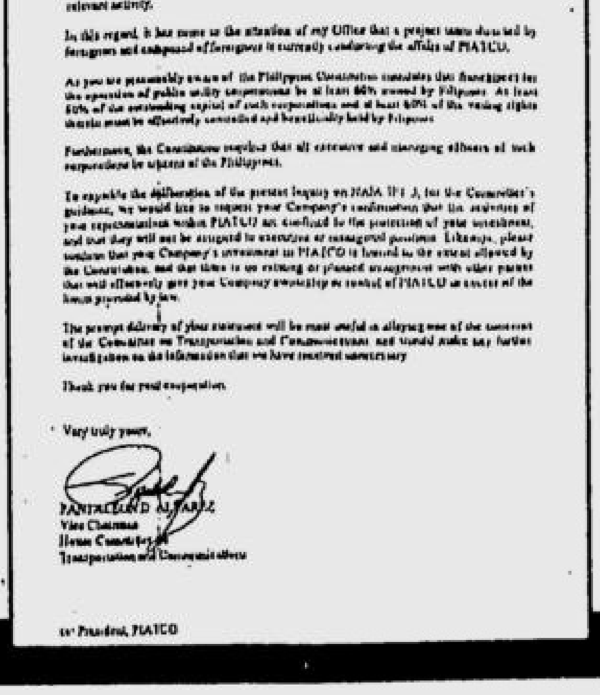
As Congressman and Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation from 1998 to 2000, he orchestrated an investigation of the PIATCO deal, for the purpose of "establishing the validity of the Concession Agreement". He confided this fact to Fraport AG, the foreign partner of PIATCO, in his letter of January 11, 2000. He also admitted in that letter that he was pleased to know of the efforts that have made the NAIA T3 Project proceed "according to plan".



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Representative
1st District, Davao del Norte

11 January 2000

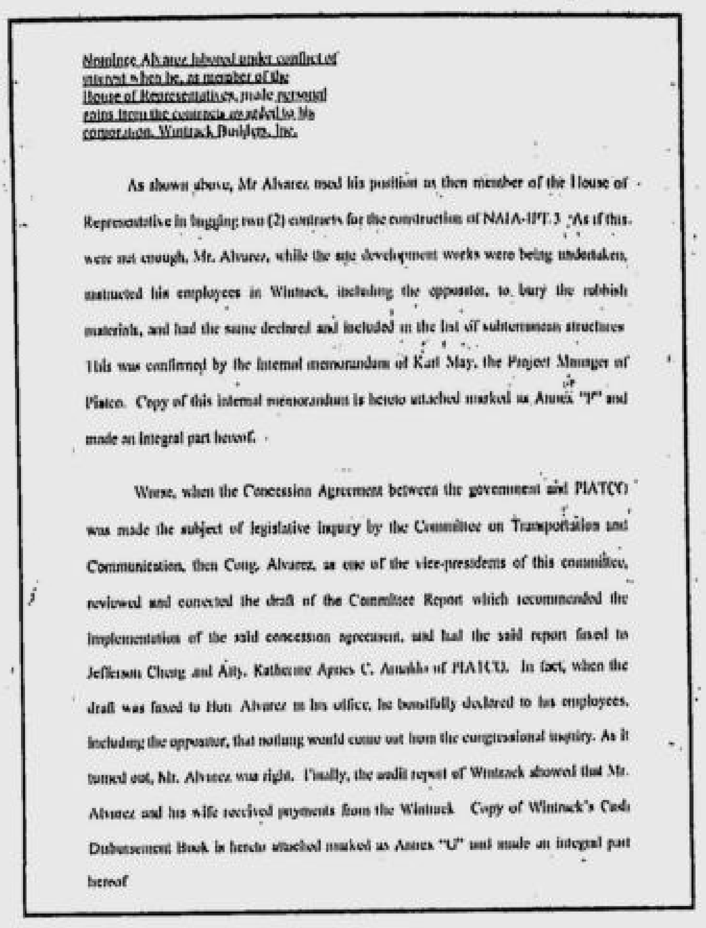


Very truly yours,

PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Vice Chairman
House Committee on
Transportation and Communications

cc: President, PIATCO

On the basis of the sworn testimony of Engr. Reynaldo Libutan, a former trusted staff of Wintrack Builders, Inc., before the CA, Mr. Alvarez leaked out a draft report of the House Committee on Transportation to his *kumpadre*, Jeffrey Cheng, for correction, thereby ensuring that the report of the Committee's investigation would be favorable and acceptable to PIATCO.

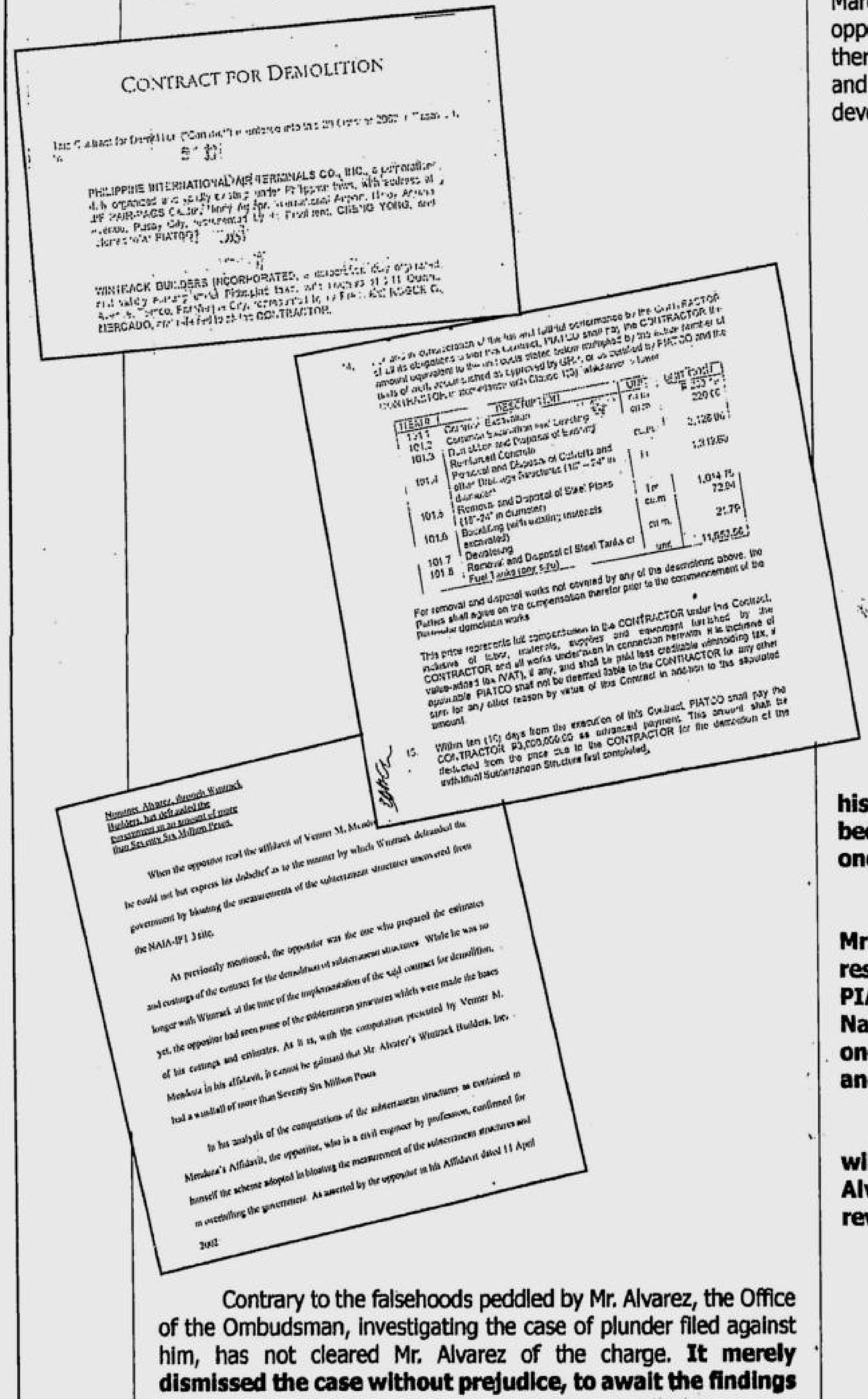


Nominee Alvarez labored under conflict of interest when he, as member of the House of Representatives, made personal gains from the contracts awarded to his corporation, Wintrack Builders, Inc.

As shown above, Mr Alvarez used his position as then member of the House of Representative in bagging two (2) contracts for the construction of NAIA-IPT 3. As if this were not enough, Mr. Alvarez, while the site development works were being undertaken, instructed his employees in Wintrack, including the oppositor, to bury the rubbish materials, and had the same declared and included in the list of subterranean structures This was confirmed by the internal memorandum of Karl May, the Project Manager of Piatco. Copy of this internal memorandum is hereto attached marked as Annex "T" and made an integral part hereof.

Worse, when the Concession Agreement between the government and PIATCO was made the subject of legislative inquiry by the Committee on Transportation and Communication, then Cong. Alvarez, as one of the vice-presidents of this committee, reviewed and corrected the draft of the Committee Report which recommended the implementation of the said concession agreement, and had the said report faxed to Jefferson Cheng and Atty. Katherine Agnes C. [illegible] of PIATCO. In fact, when the draft was faxed to Hon. Alvarez in his office, he boastfully declared to his employees, including the oppositor, that nothing would come out from the congressional inquiry. As it turned out, Mr. Alvarez was right. Finally, the audit report of Wintrack showed that Mr. Alvarez and his wife received payments from the Wintrack. Copy of Wintrack's Cash Disbursement Book is hereto attached marked as Annex "U" and made an integral part hereof

By accepting, through his family-owned company, Wintrack Builders, a subcontract work from PIATCO to do subterranean works on the T3 project for a hefty sum of P300 million, though arguably not illegal, he seriously compromised his solemn duty to place the interest of the government and the people above his own personal interest. What is worse, however, is that Mr. Alvarez, who continues to lie about not getting this contract from PIATCO, bloated the works done by Wintrack at least five times more, thereby defrauding government by at least P76 million.



CONTRACT FOR DEMOLITION

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL AIR TERMINALS CO., INC., [illegible] Pasay City, [illegible] CHENG YONG, [illegible] PIATCO

WINTRACK BUILDERS INCORPORATED, [illegible] MERCADO, [illegible] CONTRACTOR.

For removal and disposal works not covered by any of the descriptions above, the Parties shall agree on the compensation therefor prior to the commencement of the particular demolition works.

This price represents full compensation to the CONTRACTOR under this Contract, inclusive of labor, materials, supplies and equipment furnished by the CONTRACTOR and all works undertaken in connection herewith. It is inclusive of value-added tax (VAT), if any, and shall be paid less creditable withholding tax, if applicable. PIATCO shall not be deemed liable to the CONTRACTOR for any other sum for any other reason by virtue of this Contract in addition to the stipulated amount.

15. Within ten (10) days from the execution of this Contract, PIATCO shall pay the CONTRACTOR P3,000,000.00 as advanced payment. This amount shall be deducted from the price due to the CONTRACTOR for the demolition of the individual Subterranean Structure first completed.

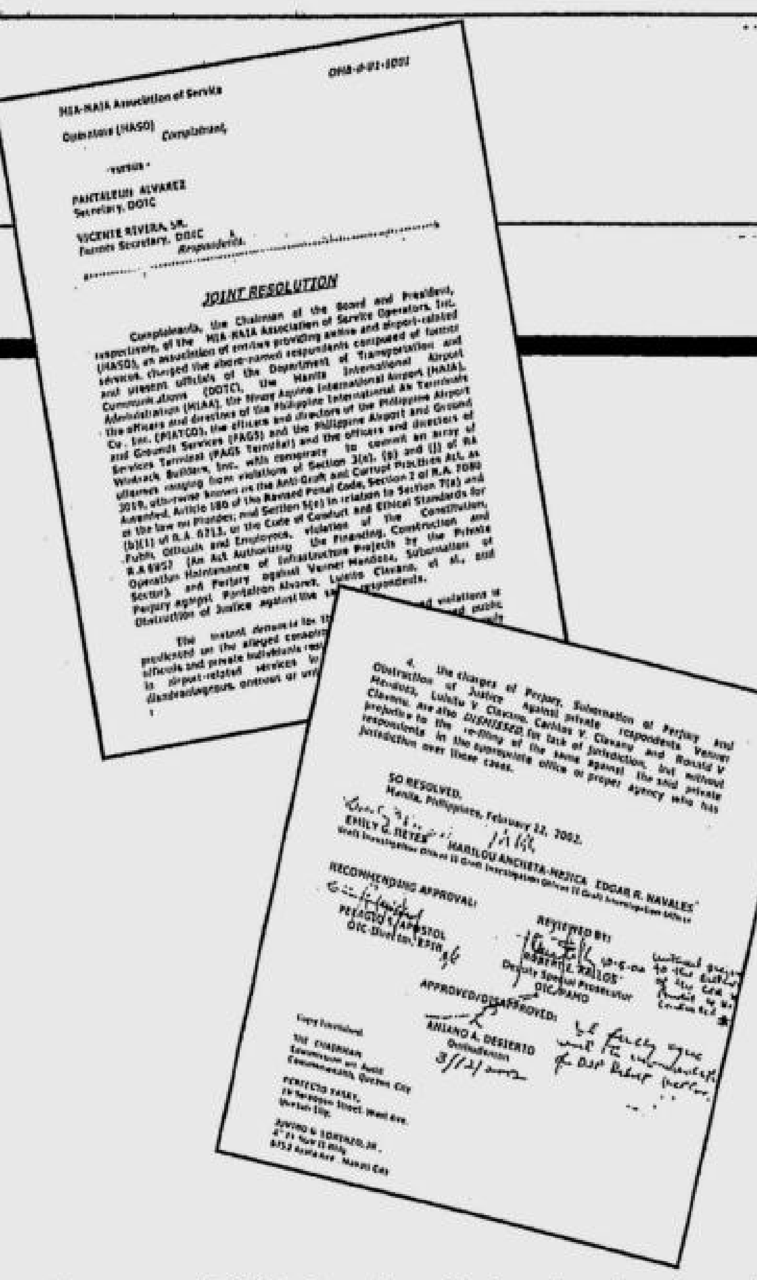
Nominee Alvarez, through Wintrack Builders, has defrauded the government in an amount of more than Seventy Six Million Pesos.

When the oppositor read the affidavit of Venner M. Mendo [illegible] he could not but express his disbelief as to the manner by which Wintrack defrauded the government by bloating the measurements of the subterranean structures uncovered from the NAIA-IPT 3 site.

As previously mentioned, the oppositor was the one who prepared the estimates and costings of the contract for the demolition of subterranean structures. While he was no longer with Wintrack at the time of the implementation of the said contract for demolition, yet, the oppositor had seen some of the subterranean structures which were made the bases of his costings and estimates. As it is, with the computation presented by Venner M. Mendoza in his affidavit, it cannot be gainsaid that Mr. Alvarez's Wintrack Builders, Inc. had a windfall of more than Seventy Six Million Pesos

In his analysis of the computations of the subterranean structures as contained in Mendoza's Affidavit, the oppositor, who is a civil engineer by profession, confirmed for himself the scheme adopted in bloating the measurement of the subterranean structures and in overbilling the government. As asserted by the oppositor in his Affidavit dated 11 April 2002

Contrary to the falsehoods peddled by Mr. Alvarez, the Office of the Ombudsman, investigating the case of plunder filed against him, has not cleared Mr. Alvarez of the charge. **It merely dismissed the case without prejudice, to await the findings of COA.**



NIA-NAIA Association of Service Operators (NASO) Complainant,

-versus-

PANTALEON ALVAREZ
Secretary, DOTC

VICENTE RIVERA, JR.
Former Secretary, DOTC
Respondents.

JOINT RESOLUTION

4. The charges of Perjury, Subornation of Perjury and Obstruction of Justice against private respondents Venner Mendoza, Lulu V. Clavano, Carlos V. Clavano and Ronald V. Clavano, are also DISMISSED for lack of jurisdiction, but without prejudice to the re-filing of the same against the said private respondents in the appropriate office or proper agency who has jurisdiction over these cases.

SO RESOLVED.

Manila, Philippines, February 12, 2002.

EMILY G. REYES MARILOU ANCHETA-MEJICA EDGAR R. NAVALES

RECOMMENDING APPROVAL:

PELAGIO S. APOSTOL
OIC-Director, EPIB

REVIEWED BY:

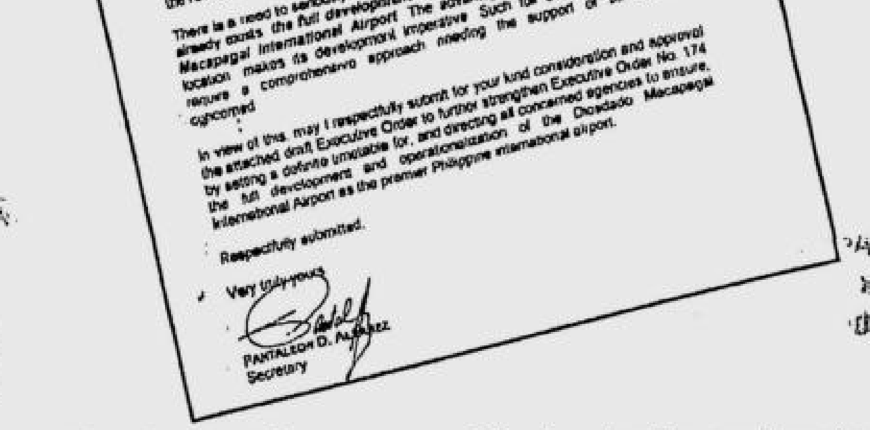
ROBERTO L. KALLOS
Deputy Special Prosecutor
OIC, PAMO

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED:

ANIANO A. DESIERTO
Ombudsman
3/12/2002

Now as DOTC Secretary-Designate, he has had the opportunity to review the PIATCO contract, which he says he merely inherited from his predecessors, but now calls it "the best BOT contract the government entered into." He refuses to initiate changes in the contract to protect the interest of the people claiming that he is merely the implementor of a perfected and binding document, but readily and graciously approves amendments for the benefit of PIATCO. This makes him even worse than the persons who actually signed the agreements and supplements because he has shown no desire at all to protect government and all the people whom he has sworn to do so.

Mr. Alvarez even lied to you, Madame President. You told the people of Pampanga on September 28, 2001 that he reassured you at least five times that the Concession Agreement did not prevent the development of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA). Subsequently, however, in a Memorandum for you, dated March 1, 2002, he admitted, after it was clear to him that mounting opposition on that issue placed his confirmation in jeopardy, that there is a need to remove the "exclusivity provision" in the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement (ARCA) "that restricts the development of DMIA and Central Luzon".



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

27 February 2002

HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace
Manila

Your Excellency:

The Ninoy Aquino International Airport is at present serving as the premier international gateway of the country. The Department of Transportation and Communications, however, is aware of the practical limitations faced by the NAIA. Studies show that as traffic at the NAIA will reach its saturation point by the year 2013. Furthermore, there is no more room for any further expansion of the NAIA for the construction of any additional runway.

There is a need to seriously address this concern as early as now. An alternative already exists: the full development and operationalization of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport. The advantages it offers and its strategic location makes its development imperative. Such full development will also require a comprehensive approach needing the support of all agencies concerned.

In view of this, may I respectfully submit for your kind consideration and approval the attached draft Executive Order to further strengthen Executive Order No. 174 by setting a definite timetable for, and directing all concerned agencies to ensure, the full development and operationalization of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport as the premier Philippine international airport.

Respectfully submitted.

Very truly yours,

PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Secretary

Clearly, Mr. Alvarez cannot be trusted in performing his solemn duties and responsibilities as a public servant because, since day one, he has decided only to be loyal to no one but to himself and PIATCO!

Madame President, by pushing for the confirmation of Mr. Alvarez in the face of all these facts, you assume full responsibility for what is wrong and illegal about the PIATCO deal. Worse yet, your government and the entire Nation will have to bear the brunt of all the ill effects of an onerous and disadvantageous contract that was harbored and hatched during the previous administration.

I trust, however, that being informed of the facts, you will promptly withdraw your support for Sec. Pantaleon D. Alvarez, and order the immediate cancellation and revocation of the ARCA.

Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr.
Star witness in a Presidential Impeachment trial
and former Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission

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Sunday SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SIX DIGIT

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(in exact order)

HEARTSTOPPING NBA GAMES

Nets to Finals; Lakers force Game 7

Twin thrillers

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

DID I not tell you I wasn't kidding? Jason Kidd made his historic third triple-double yesterday to cement New Jersey's bid for a first-ever NBA title since the team's debut in 1975. Why they robbed this kid of the NBA's MVP is a puzzle approximating the senselessness of the Twin Towers assault.

Hey, the kid had almost singlehandedly carried the Nets to the Eastern Finals and next made sure New Jersey would win the Conference crown by becoming the team's Do-It-All guy.

Kidd sealed the 4-2 win over the Celtics yesterday by again performing the three roles he does best and loves doing—as guard, forward and center. He had 13 assists, 15 points and 13 rebounds. Wilt Chamberlain (1967) was the last to score a triple-double thrice in a playoff series. Oscar Robertson was the first to achieve that 39 years ago.

After a four-day rest, Kidd and the Nets return to the hardcourt on Thursday for Game 1 of the NBA Finals—against either Sacramento or Los Angeles.

I also watched the Laker-King Game 6 yesterday after the Net-Celtic encounter. A brownout in our area had me rushing to the Celebrity Sports Plaza to catch the game live on Cable TV.

What a game that was.

Los Angeles prevailed by unleashing yet another talent heretofore unknown: An almost flawless shooting touch from the line. With Shaquille O'Neal as the anchor at that.

Of the Lakers' 31 last-quarter points, 21 were free throws—6 by Shaq.

Shaq began the quarter with two charities, following that up with a jumper for the Lakers' 79-75 lead.

After Mike Bibby gave the lead back to the Kings with a fastbreak, 92-90, 3:07 left, Robert Horry sank two gift shots off the fouled-out Vlade Divac with 2:57 to go.

Next, Shaq tossed in a free throw before Kobe Bryant and Rick Fox combined for six straight free throws as Los Angeles took a 99-96 lead with 1:15 remaining.

When the Kings closed in at 100-101, Kobe fired four straight free throws before Horry iced the Lakers' win by sinking the game's last basket with 2.4 ticks left: a free throw.

As I keep saying, the Lakers are the hardest to beat once The Shaq & Kobe Show is on. Of the Lakers' total of 106 points yesterday, they combined for 72—Shaq 41 and Kobe 31.

I can't wait to see the Lakers uncrown the Kings in their own turf tomorrow.

Brownout or no brownout in our place.

■

Dayong Mendoza celebrates today. Happy birthday, coach.

BOSTON—Jason Kidd became the first player in 35 years to record three triple-doubles in an NBA playoff series, and the New Jersey Nets finished off the Boston Celtics with a 96-88 victory in Game 6 on Friday night to go on to the NBA Finals.

Everyone got quite a laugh last summer when the Nets acquired Kidd and he boldly predicted that the perpetually downtrodden franchise would be able to win 40 games. But no one is laughing now at the franchise that won two ABA titles but only one NBA playoff series prior to this year.

The Nets are the first team since the 1977-78 Seattle SuperSonics to make it to the Finals after failing to qualify for the playoffs the previous season.

Mr. Everything

Kidd was Mr. Everything for the Nets, finishing with 15 points, 13 rebounds and 13 assists. He joined Oscar Robertson (1963) and Wilt Chamberlain (1967) as the only players with three triple-doubles in a series.

Kidd all but clinched the game with 33.9 seconds left, blowing two kisses to his family—just as he always does when he shoots foul shots—and knocking down two free throws for a 96-88 lead.

The Nets will play the winner of the Los Angeles-Sacramento series beginning next Wednesday night (Thursday in Manila).

Shaq broad shoulders

In Los Angeles, Shaquille O'Neal carried the Los Angeles Lakers on his broad shoulders one more time with 41 points and 17 rebounds as the two-time defending champions forced a Game 7 in the Western Conference finals, beating the Sacramento Kings, 106-102, Friday night (Saturday morning in Manila).

With everything from savage dunks and delicate hook shots to a string of 10 straight free throws, O'Neal wouldn't allow this epic playoff series to end early. He went 13-for-17 from the line, not a remarkable feat for most players—but an indication of just how seriously O'Neal took this game.

Now, it will end appropriately: With the champs matched against the NBA's best regular-season team in a winner-take-all game on Sunday (Monday in Manila).

The winner of Game 7 at Arco Arena will play host to the New Jersey Nets in Game 1 of the Finals.

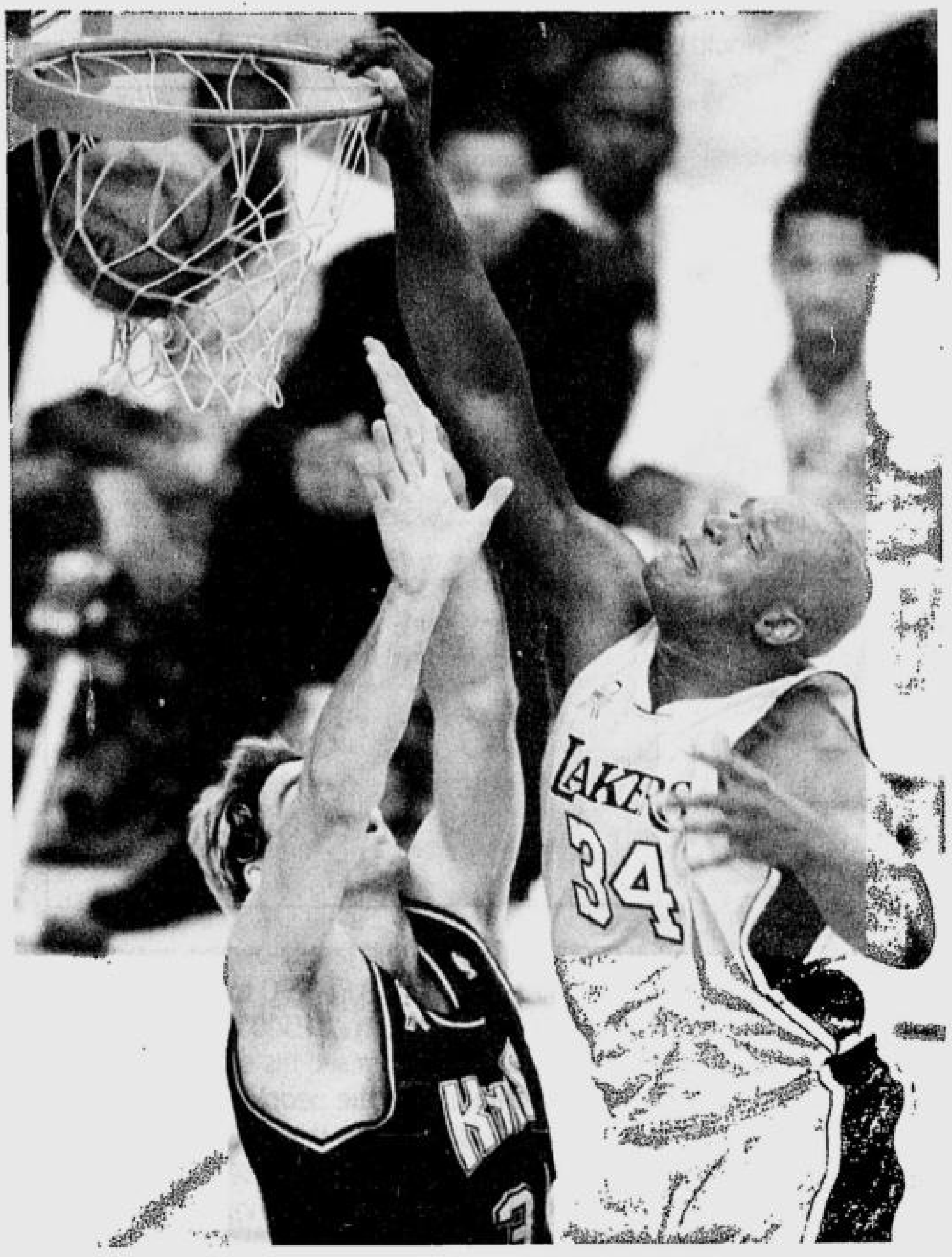
Kobe's 31 pts, 11 rebounds

Kobe Bryant had 31 points and 11 rebounds in the Lakers' first elimination game since the 2000 conference finals against Portland.

Los Angeles went nearly six minutes without a field goal down the stretch in the fourth quarter, but made 18 free throws over the final 6:21 to hold off the Kings. Bryant made four free throws in the final 19.8 seconds.

Without O'Neal's dominance, Los Angeles' hope of a third straight title probably would have died against another aggressive, uptempo effort by the Kings. Chris Webber had an outstanding game, finishing with 26 points and 13 rebounds.

But O'Neal was relentless in a performance fitting for the dominant big man of his era. He scored 21 points in the first half, then didn't come out of the game in the second half despite his assortment of injuries. *AP*



O'NEAL scoring one against Sacramento Kings' Scott Pollard. The Lakers won, 106-102. AP

RCPI Negros sweeps LBC

LIPA CITY—What they started at home, the RCPI Negros Slashers completed on the road last night.

Thwarting the LBC Batangas Blades' spirited comeback, the Slashers took Game Three, 87-82, and swept their Metropolitan Basketball Association First Conference title series at the Lipa Youth and Cultural Center here.

Reynel Hugnatan provided the firepower and Dino Aldeguer the rally-breaker as the Slashers posted their third straight win and cut short the best-of-five showdown.

Though the Slashers have emerged Southern Conference champion three times, this was the Slashers' first title since the MBA started in 1998.

"I cannot express my joy. It just felt good," said Slashers coach Joshua Villapando, who joined the elite list of MBA champion coaches right in his first crack. "The team is easy to handle. They are all coachable."

Hugnatan wound up with 26 points, 11 rebounds, two assists and one steal for the Slashers and was adjudged MVP of the playoffs.

"We took our revenge on their homecourt," said Hugnatan, referring to the defeat dealt them by the Slashers in last year's MBA National Finals.

RCPI Negros also won Game One, 89-80, and Game Two, 75-68, at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum in Bacolod City.

The Blades threatened at 84-82 on a triple by Alex Compton, but two crucial freethrow misses by Tonyboy Espinosa in the last 53 seconds dampened their chances of forging Game Four.

The Blades started strong and led by as many as 10 points, 36-26, through the sniping of Alex Compton. The Slashers, however, clawed their way back through Hugnatan to knot the count at 47 at halftime.

Among the thousands of spectators were Sen. Ralph Recto, Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos and their son Ryan Christian.

Scores:

NEGROS 87—Hugnatan 26, Ferriols 18, Francisco 14, Dela Rosa 8, Espiritu 8, Aldeguer 6, Madrid 5, Bautista 2.

BATANGAS 82—Compton 25, Laure 16, Espinosa 12, Rivera 7, Sanders 7, De Castro 5, Corbin 4, Cuevas 4, Martin 2.

Quarters: 17-26, 47-47, 68-83, 87-82.

Norman stops clock, surges ahead

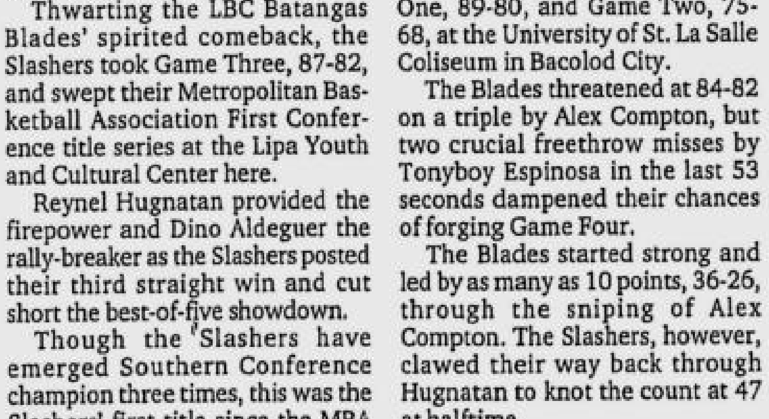
POTOMAC, Maryland—Earlier this week, Greg Norman said that over 40 players were becoming a "forgotten entity" on the PGA Tour.

No one will forget Norman if he keeps playing like this.

On a day of withering heat and fluctuating scores, the 47-year-old Australian star was one of the few steady hands. He shot a bogey-free 6-under-par 65 Friday to take a two-stroke lead at the midpoint of the Kemper Insurance Open.

Sorenstam ahead

In Illinois, with visions of another 59 dancing through her mind, Annika Sorenstam settled for a 63 and the first-round lead Friday in the inaugural Kellogg-Keebler Classic. *AP*



INTERCLUB CHAMPS

Spring Cooking Oil basketball team owner and perennial shooting titlist Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (in polo shirt) receives from Mike Buendia the trophy for Spring's recent victory over ML Kwarta Padala in the National Interclub championship in Cebu City. By winning its second national crown, Spring earned the right to represent the Philippines in the Seaba championship in Bangkok.

18 schools tapped for 'Palaro'

NAGA City Mayor Jessie Robredo yesterday said he has converted hundreds of classrooms in 18 city schools into billeting areas for almost 8,000 students and officials taking part in the Palarong Pambansa which starts tomorrow.

Most of the athletes will stay in the Camarines Sur National High School and Naga Central School, according to Robredo, whose city will host the Palaro for the first time since 1997.

"We want to prove that Naga can host the Games with the same commitment that we have given when we first hosted the Games in 1997," said Robredo, who added that delegates have started to arrive in the city on Friday.

Chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission lauded the city's preparations even as he announced the additional P10 million budget which will be used for vitamins, medicines, additional food allowances and bed cushions.

"It's all systems go and the various committees have been set up to accommodate the arrival of participants from all over the country," said Buhain.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

SOCCER: World Cup Today at 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

World Cup 2002—England vs Sweden at 5:30 p.m. on Dream 42

TENNIS: French Open 2002, Fourth Round beginning at 5 p.m. on Sky Cable and Home Cable 29

GOLF: LPGA Asahi Ryokuken International Championship, Final Round at 2 p.m. on Star Sports

PGA Kemper Insurance Open; Third Round at 4 p.m. on Star Sports

Clijsters upset; Venus survives

PARIS —Kim Clijsters felt sluggish, her normally peppy game lagged and what followed was a stunning loss at the French Open.

Last year's runner-up, Clijsters made 59 unforced errors Friday and was ousted in the third round by the world's No. 87 player.

"I just felt tired. My whole body just felt a little heavier. That's not the reason," Clijsters said after she was upset 6-4, 6-0 by Clarisa Fernandez, a lanky left-hander from Argentina.

"I just didn't play well. I just didn't move forward enough when I had chances to finish off points quicker," she added.

No. 2 Venus Williams and No. 6 Monica Seles also moved on to the round of 16. So did top-seeded Lleyton Hewitt and three-time champ Gustavo Kuerten on a day of distractions at Roland Garros.

A match between Carlos Moya and Guillermo Canas was interrupted for an hour as officials evacuated Court 1 while they investigated a suspicious briefcase left under the seats in the upper section. They subsequently exploded the briefcase and let the fans back in.

"It turned out to be a briefcase forgotten by an absent-minded spectator," organizers said.

Canas went on to a five-set victory.

And tennis wasn't the only thing on the minds of those roaming the grounds of the picturesque facility. Cheers could be heard while France's soccer team played–and lost–to Senegal in the first round of the World Cup.

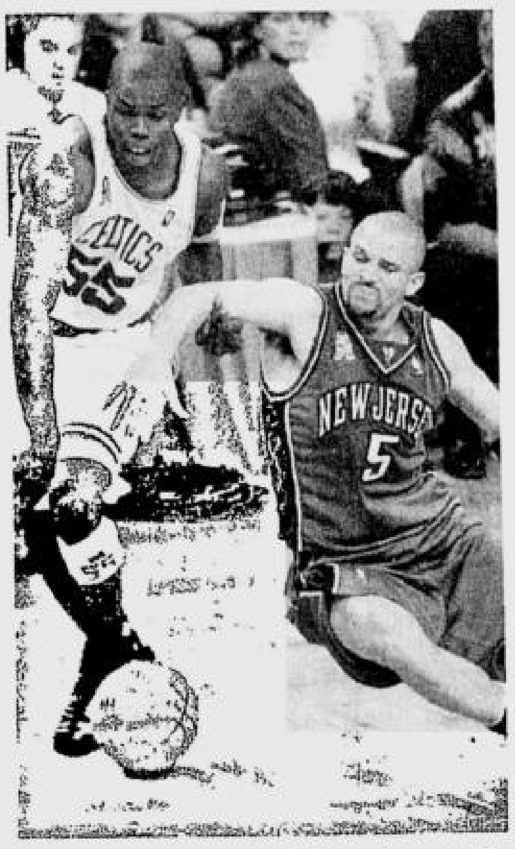
No. 15 Canas' 4-6, 7-6 (1), 6-7 (2), 6-1, 6-2 win over Moya moves him to the round of 16 against Hewitt. *AP*

Cunanan enters final

LAOAG—Karl Ivan Cunanan beat Carlo Domingo, 8-7, and Arvin Cruz, 8-1, to barge into the final of the boys' 12-under division in the North Luzon swing of the 2002 Milo Junior Tennis Cup & Regional Workshop here Thursday. The Manila-based Cunanan will meet Brian Amoranto, a protégé of Mandaluyong Mayor Benjamin Abalos. Amoranto ousted Marbart Eugenio, 8-4. Cunanan lined himself up for a possible double against fancied Jopy Mamawal of San Beda in the boys' 14-under bracket following an 8-6 semifinal victory over Batac's Lendell Chua.

In the unisex 10-under class, Chynna Mamawal of Flos Carmeli Institution-QC blanked Austin Corpuz 8-0 to gain a final with Stephen Chua, who whipped JV Custodio, 8-5 and Joy Mangased, 8-4.

Other finalists include Bedan Borgs Solpico of San Fernando, La union against Iligan City's Neil Fernandez in the boys' 18-under, and local netter Eshna Andres with Ivy Calamaan in the girls' 16-under group in the Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Adidas and Sports Kids with sanction from Philta.



KIDD (right) losing his balance but not his poise as he powered the Nets to a first-ever NBA Finals. AFP

Barte wins Alibor title

FOURTH seed Ralph Barte of Davao City captured his fourth straight boys' 14-under title yesterday after pulling off a 6-1, 6-4, victory over third seed Pablo Olivarez II of La Salle-Zobel in the Alibor-Philta Age Group Tennis Challenge at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Barte, sponsored by MC Balce Surveying Services, won the Toby's-Philta tournament last week. His other title victories were the Enervon International Juniors and the Head-Penn Championships, both Group 1 tournaments sanctioned by Philta.

UST varsity player Gabriel Edward Remigio pocketed the boys' 21-under title over Michael Tenoria, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 while second seed Joseph Arcilla of Letran stunned top seed Gino Bautista, 7-6 (4), 6-4, to clinch the boys' 18-under title.

Top seed Janjie Soquino of Cebu bagged the boys' 16-under title over second seed Arithmetico Lim of Chiang Kai Shek, 6-0, 6-4, and Cagayan de Oro's Francis Casey Alcantara defeated Cebuano Bernardine Siso, 6-0, 6-3, for his seventh straight unisex 10-under title.

No. 1 Bambi Zoleta of Mary Hill College-Lucena won the girls' 12-under title with a 6-1, 6-0, decision over second seed Jessica Agra of Colegio San Agustin.

Bambi Zoleta and Melissa Orteza were declared co-champion in the 14-under class due to heavy rains, the same with Xavier's Joshua Tan Ho and Francis Casey Alcantara in the boys' 12-under division.

Payla, Basadre target Acropolis Cup finals slot

By Edwin Villanueva

ATHENS, Greece—Violito Payla and Genebert Basadre try to secure slots in the finals while battle-tested Arlan Lerio also aims for the same goal Saturday night in the 2002 Acropolis Cup international amateur boxing championships at the Platon Stadium here.

The in-form Payla trades punches with Ireland's Liam Cunningham in the semis of the flyweight class (51-kg), while Basadre, his confidence boosted after marking his international debut with a victory last Thursday night, goes up against Bobirnat Ovidiu of Cyprus in the featherweight (57-kg division).

Lerio, the 'leader' of the six-man Team Caltex Philippines seeing action here, finally flexes his muscles in the bantamweight category (54-kg) when he collides with Thailand-born Athit Thiiangtrong of Finland.

"*Handa po kami*," said the 18-year-old soft-spoken Basadre, who like Payla hails from Cagayan de Oro City.

Meanwhile middleweight (75-kg) Maraon Goles failed to advance Friday night after being badly outclassed by Denmark's Brian Brantley.

Goles bravely fought on after Brantley floored him with a right hook in the second round but the Danish fighter's relentless head and body attack in the fourth finally wore the Filipino down, forcing the referee to halt the bout.

"*Sana manalo ang tatlo para malaki ang tiyansa natin makapaguwi ng* gold medal," said coach Patricio Gaspi, referring to Payla, Basadre and Lerio.

The Filipino boxers, backed mainly by Caltex and supported by Pacific Heights, Revicon and the Philippine Sports Commission, are competing here to prepare for the coming Busan Asian Games and eventually the 2004 Olympics which this city is hosting again since the 1896 inaugural games.

Boxing clinics huge success, says Lopez

LOPEZ

THE BOXING clinics held in Tondo recently was a success, former Manila Mayor and Philippine Sports Commission Chair Mel Lopez said yesterday.

The clinics started in April at the Tondo Sports Complex fronting the Tondo church. Similar clinics were also conducted in 50 areas in Manila, including San Andres and the Philippine National Railways in Sta. Mesa.

The clinics were supported by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. The Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines extended technical assistance through Roel Velasco (bronze medalist of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics), Vicente Galido (gold medalist of the 1996 Hiroshima Asian Games), Fernando "Boy" Asis, George Caliwan, Virgilio Viscera, Ernesto Coronel, Erlino Cañal, Roger Fortaleza, and Jackie Trillana, former featherweight champion of the Philippines.

The program is a continuation of the age-group grassroots boxing development program started 15 years ago in Manila and later in Cebu City with the support of sportsman Tony Aldeguer. It later went to Bago City, hometown of 1996 Atlanta Olympics silver medalist Onyok Velasco.

WORLD CUP

Denmark downs Uruguay, 2-1

TOMASSON celebrates after scoring against Uruguay in a Group A match yesterday. Tomasson's goals in the 45th and 73rd handed Denmark a 2-1 victory. REUTERS

BUSAN, South Korea—Jon Dahl Tomasson struck two goals to hand Denmark a 2-1 win over Uruguay in World Cup Group A on Saturday.

Tomasson clipped home a shot from eight meters (yards) off Jesper Gronkjaer's pass in the 45th minute and grabbed the winner seven minutes from time, heading a Martin Jorgensen cross off the underside of the bar.

Dario Rodriguez had equalized for Uruguay in the 47th minute when he scored what will go down as one of the classiest goals of the World Cup, striking in a sweet left-footed volley that curled away from leaping Danish 'keeper Thomas Sorensen and sailed in above his outstretched right arm.

Mandarin treat

WORLD Cup enthusiasts may watch the 2002 Fifa World Cup games at the Captain's Bar and Jefferson room of Mandarin Oriental, Manila. A P350 food and beverage consumable charge applies. For the daily schedule of games, call the Captain's Bar at 7508888. For information, call Charisse G. Chuidian, director of communications, Mandarin Oriental, Manila, at 8199667.

The result leaves Denmark tied alongside Senegal at the top of Group A with three points. France, who lost 1-0 to Senegal Friday, and Uruguay have 0 points. Denmark plays Senegal Thursday and Uruguay meet France the same day.

Both sides played some creative soccer in the first half, but it was the Danes who had the best chances.

Denmark went close to scoring in the seventh minute when Dennis Rommedahl whipped in a cross from the right flank that Ebbe Sand headed onto the top of the crossbar.

Alvaro Recoba created Uruguay's best first half chance, curling an early free kick just wide of the left post.

The second half was tight with both sides searching out a winner.

But it was the Danes who finally grabbed it, Jorgensen breaking free on the left flank and whipping in a ball that AC Milan-bound Tomasson headed home.

The two sides last met in 1986 when Denmark thrashed the two time world champion 6-1.

Lineups:

URUGUAY: 1-Fabian Carini, 2-Gustavo Mendez, 4-Paolo Montero (C), 5-Pablo Garcia, 6-Dario Rodriguez (Federico Magallanes, 87), 7-Gianni Guigou, 8-Gustavo Varela, 9-Dario Silva, 13-Sebastian Abreu (18-Richard Morales, 88) 14-Gonzalo Sorondo, 20-Alvaro Recoba (17-Mario Regueiro, 78).

DENMARK: 1-Thomas Sorensen, 2-Stig Toefting, 3-Rene Henriksen, 4-Martin Laursen, 5-Jan Heintze (C), (12-Nicolas Jensen, 47), 6-Thomas Helveg, 7-Thomas Gravesen, 8-Jesper Gronkjaer (Martin Jorgesen, 69) 9-Jon Dahl Tomasson, 11-Ebbe Sand (17-Christian Poulsen, 88) 19-Dennis Rommedahl.

Referee: Saad Mane (Kuwait). AP

14 schools start street soccer bid

FOURTEEN schools started their bid yesterday for honors in the Puma Invitational Street Soccer 15-under tournament. The teams are Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Iloilo, Davao, Rizal Province, Laguna, Masbate, Iligan, Ateneo Football Center, Makati Football School, International School, Brent International, British School and Japanese School.

The national women's team will demonstrate how the 4-on-4 format is played in the exhibition game at noon. Puma will also be conducting a skills show.

The elimination round of the street soccer competition starts at 1:30 p.m. The top four teams of the event, organized by the International Management Group, qualify for the quarterfinals, with the winners advancing to the semis. The losers play for third place while the winners clash for the title on Monday.

DREAM
2002 FIFA World Cup
TODAY'S FEATURED GAME
ENGLAND vs. SWEDEN
5:30 p.m. LIVE!
On Dream Ch. 42
Commercial outlets interested in airing rights for 2002 FIFA World Cup may contact (02) 918-8000

JESS YUSON

A SPECTATOR points the way to the Pangasinan team members as they pass Barangay San Agustin in Ibaan, Batangas, during yesterday's team time trial of the FedEx Tour.

Nueva Ecija captures Tour team time trial

Stage results: 1. Accel-Nueva Ecija 6:33.29, 2. Darlington-Central Luzon 6:35.06, 3. Smart-Rizal 6:38.03, 4. Petron-Mindanao 6:39.28, 5. Airfreight 2100-NCR 6:40.27, 6. Gatorade-Pangasinan 6:41.11, 7. Pagcor-N. Luzon 6:44.44, 8. PCSO-S. Luzon 6:46.52, 9. Rainforest-Ilocandia 6:48.43, 10. Corporate Air-Visayas 6:54.07.

By June Navarro

LIPA CITY—The big guns of the FedEx Express Tour got a respite during yesterday's team time trial in preparation for the fourth and final stage of the cycling spectacle within the Calabarzon growth area.

Team Accel-Nueva Ecija stamped its class in running away with the team event title after logging a total of 6 hours, 33 minutes and 29 seconds.

Darlington-Central Luzon and Smart-Rizal came in second and third after clocking 6:35.06 and 6:38.03, respectively.

National team member Ronald Gorantes led Nueva Ecija to the P10,000 team time trial prize while Central Luzon won P5,000 and Rizal got P3,000.

Today's final ride will see the cyclists going to Manila via Laguna and the mountainous terrain of Antipolo.

Focus will be on Corporate Air-Visayas' Santy Barnachea, the overall leader. Pagcor-Nueva Viscaya's Arnel Quirimit, Stage 2 winner and second running overall, Stage One winner Davadilla, Accel-Nueva Ecija's Albert Primero, Erick Feliciano and Alfie Catalan of Airfreight 2100-NCR are expected to make a wild dash for the top individual prize of P50,000.

The runner-up will win P30,000 while the third top finisher gets P25,000.

The top team prize is pegged at P200,000 while the runner-up gets home with P150,000.

Awaiting the 58 surviving riders at the Quirino Grandstand are FedEx chair Bert Lina, Tourism secretary Richard Gordon, GAB chair Eduardo Villanueva and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Yu, Javier share honors in LGBA awards night

COCKFIGHT veteran and OPMI president Vic Yu and top horseman Sandy Javier of Andok's Litson fame received top honors in the just concluded Luzon Gamefowl Breeders Association (LGBA) Gamecock Breeder of the Year search at the Mandaluyong Coliseum Thursday night.

Yu's Mandaluyong Coliseum entry, which utilized the now famous Boyboy Roa lemon roundheads, tallied 2.5 points in three LGBA Cockfighting Conference derbies to emerge as the LGBA overall leader.

But the big revelation in the short but fiery series was Javier's bet, Royal Maverick Ranch Arnis Master EDL, which posted a total of 12 points, to grab first runner-up honors.

Javier's young cocks fed and conditioned by Boy Diaz (15 months old) are composed of the hard-hitting Ray Alexander and Marion Rose bloodlines. He vaulted into second top spot just half a point behind the eventual winner after racking up five points in the 3rd LGBA Cockfighting Conference 7-Cock Derby last Thursday.

Erstwhile leader former Congressman Amado Bagatsing (Air Gladiator), Tony Galang and William Go (Argga Gold Cup II) and Ram Lopez/Tony Litonjua (Altuz Starwars) posted 11.5 points each.

Hotelier Biboy Enriquez (Firebird), Dong Chung and W. Go (5th of May Gold Cup) and Commissioner Jun Sevilla (JRS Spectrum) racked up 11 points apiece.

9-cock derby June 4

LOCAL and international derby champions are all set to compete in the "2002 Mandaluyong 9-Cock International Derby" second leg on June 4, 6 and 8 at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. The event will be supported by the United Cockers Association of the Philippines.

All four co-champions in last January's Mandaluyong 9-Cock International Derby are seeing action. They are Jun Marasigan of Batangas (BL Intruder), Henry Tan (Dynasty), Commissioner Ashley Arayata (Agilahas) and Boy de Roca (Guagua Coliseum).

Expected to provide tough challenge are American breeders Chuck Berry of Oklahoma and Bobby Jones of Texas.

Immonen arriving Tuesday for world pool tilt

REIGNING world pool champion Mika Immonen will arrive on June 4 for the Motolite 9-Ball World Pool Challenge from June 6-11 at the Araneta Coliseum, the "Mecca" of Philippine sports and entertainment.

Japanese ace Kunihiko Takahashi will join Immonen at a news conference at the Big Dome on Wednesday along with Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Antonio Lining, and rising star Dennis Orcullo.

Immonen's teammates are three-time world champion and five-time US Open champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland and the young sensation Corey Duel.

Stage 3 Standings
(Lucena City -
Lipa City
81.2 kms)

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CALABARZON 2002

15. Perez, same 12. Reynante, same 9.Ganigan +00:00:27 6. Feliciano +00:00:33 3.Catalan +00:05:03
14.Davadilla +00:00:57 11. Jasul +00:01:43 8.Atilano +00:00:46 5. Ramos +00:00:31 2.Barnachea +00:00:02
13.Mendoza, same 10.Millanes +00:03:16 7.Luzon +00:00:19 4. Primero +00:00:53 1. Quirimit 04:06:17

Race Standing

1. Barnachea 08.24.01
2.Quirimit + 00:02:07
3 Primero +00:03.57
4.Feliciano +00:00:59
5.Catalan +00:00:18
6.Atilano +00:00.53
7.Ramos +00:00:36
8.Luzon +00:00:53
9 Reynante +00:03:46
10.Mendoza +00:00:10
11.Jasul +00:00:02
12.Millanes +00:00:29
13.Davadilla +00:00:10
14 Bonosa +00:00:17
15.Perez, same
16. Navarro +00:02:51
17. delaCruz, same
18. Ganigan +00:00.08
19. Calosa +00:00:14
20. Alagano, same
21.Gorantes, R., +00.02.51
22.Dolosa, same
23.Curtan +00:00:20
24 Marcelo, same
25 Robosa, same
26.Martinez +00:00:36
27.Pagnanawon +00:00:22
28 Rosario +00:03:28
29.Dasalla +00:01:06
30.Apolinar +00:00.13
31.Talaver +00:01:34
32 Austria +00:04:53
33.Reyes +00:00.21
34.Valdez +00:00:20
35.Manapul +00:02:15
36.Puulna, same
37.Ricafort, J. +00:01:27
38.Espiritu, same
39 Viniuan +00:06:20
40.Cagas +00:02.13
41.Calosa, same
42.Rolo, +00:03:39
43.Guillon, +00:03:08
44.Pagnanawon, L., +00:01:58
45.Diamsay, +00.00 26
46 Ricafort, A. +00:00:18
47.Acosta +00 06:11
48.Gonowon +00:05:00
49.Vellaber, +00.00:47
50.Basibas, L. +00.00 08
51.Osabilo +00:04:19
52.Tacutacu +00:01:13
53.Stalin, same
54.Servino +00:03:18
55.Aquino +00:01:04

Team Standing

1 Nueva Ecija 27.43 48
2.Central Luzon, 28.08.30
3.Rizal, 28:08:31
4.Northern Luzon, 28:12:48
5.Visayas, 28:15:25
6.Southern Luzon, 28:18:12
7.Pangasinan, 28.16.62,
8 Mindanao, 28:12:75
9 Ilocandia, 28.24 12
10.NCR, 28:32:14

Race leader: Barnachea
King of the mountain: Quirimit, 10pts.
Sprints: Quirimit, 17pts
Stage 4: Lipa City -MNL 168 kms

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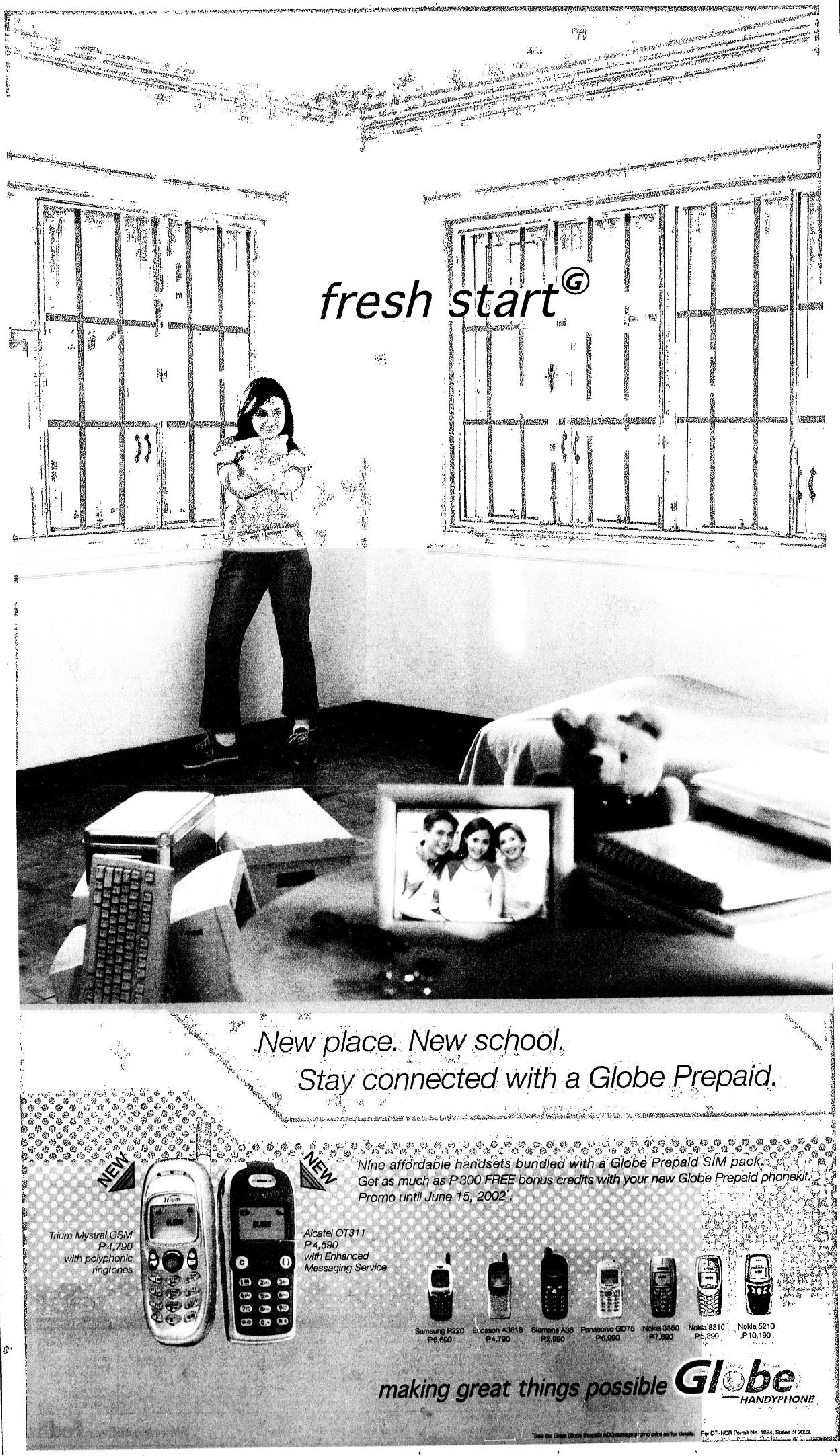

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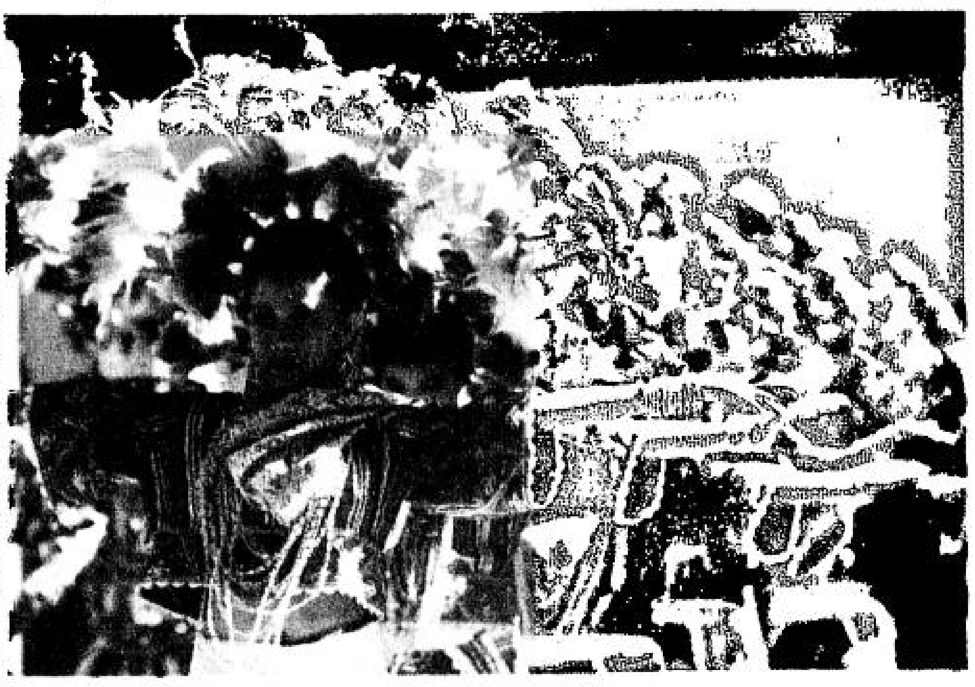

CELEBRATING 332 YEARS
Young residents of Makati take part in one of several parades to mark the city's 332nd June 1 foundation day. The celebration from May 24 to June 5 features street parties, food festivals and even a mass wedding. JOAN BONDOC

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

PGH residents form live-saving group /A26

Showers in Munti jail /A26

Life-threatening accident leads to lifeguard's job /A26

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PGH residents form live-saving group

By Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz
Contributor

SAGIP BUHAY beneficiary

FOR many resident doctors, the best hospital that can help them gain experience and training is the Philippine General Hospital on Taft Avenue in the heart of Manila.

The patients who provide these young doctors with the needed experience, especially patients from the provinces, usually go to PGH when their illness is already at its worst and its most advanced stage. They come because PGH, established by the government in 1910, is the best charity hospital in the country. It has the best medical practitioners, and everything is free, including food, accommodations and cheap antibiotics.

Theoretically, PGH ought to be also the country's best equipped hospital. But even a basic diagnostic piece of equipment as the CBC (complete blood count) machine has been out of commission because of lack of funds for repair. Thus, those who find it difficult to pay for even the P7 blue card required of all patients have to go to outside laboratories for routine tests such as CBC.

Because these patients always become more than just mere case studies for the residents, the emotional aspect of healing the sick becomes, for these bright-eyed young doctors, the hardest issue to cope with.

Second-year residents like Aileen Soriano and Rowena Ejercito of the Internal Medicine/Adult Medicine department say they cannot help but change as persons because of their everyday encounters at PGH. "You are taught what is ideal in medical school, but you discover you have to be not only a doctor but also a friend and social worker," says Soriano. "Your preconceived notions of medical work are shattered and undergo a 360-degree turn."

Did medical school prepare them for these questions: Why do the sick come when it almost seems too late? Why should patient overload be a reason to turn away patients? Why should the quality of health care a patient gets be based on the ability to pay?

A couple from Cavite came with their own electric fan and a thermos but with no cash, aside from the P7 for the blue card. Another patient is given a prescription for antibiotics, but he can hardly take the full dosage because neither the hospital nor the patient can afford to buy it.

Hours are long and both physically and emotionally demanding for the residents. Aside from making round-the-clock rounds and looking after the progress of the 30-40 patients in their care, residents find they are also responsible for sourcing the medicines for the indigent patients. They also discover that part of their daily routine is to write letters to congressmen, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office or anyone else of consequence and seek the help of social workers and philanthropists.

When Soriano and Ejercito first started their residency, their own parents and relatives were their usual sources, until they realized that this constant solicitation led to donor fatigue, and their own emotional breakdown.

It bothered them that they had to turn steely cold and tell the patients, "You have to look for money to buy your medicine." Consultant doctors supervising them who began to see their burnout and emotional wear and tear told them to let go of their idealism, to learn to be detached and to walk away.

It is not so easy to feel not responsible when the patients' relatives seek financial assistance and return with the needed medication only to discover that they have come too late. There are patients who are on their way to recovery but who acquire a new set of infections because a new patient has arrived beside them in the ward.

The residents have a refuge in their department, a little private nook known as the Call Room. When they get depressed and frustrated and fatigued, they go there, often to cry in privacy. They find a support group there, for it is there where they see that they are not alone and that often, others are having a worse time.

What is especially difficult for residents like Soriano and Ejercito is seeing even the strongest among them break down. "Adversity brings us together," says Ejercito.

The mortality rate among the residents is high. Frustrated that they cannot extend the best medical care to their patients, even the best and the brightest among them simply leave for the United States.

The residents dread Tuesdays most of all. It is "every resident's nightmare," says Soriano, because one by one, in full view of all other residents and consultants, they are audited on their performance. One often feels guilty and thinks that perhaps one did not do enough for a patient who did not survive, says Soriano.

Soriano and Ejercito say they seek little victories every day, little success stories, even just the joy of having found the medicines for the day. On days when they hold charity consultations and follow-up sessions for the out-patients, they forget their weariness, because the patients speak of how they have healed in their care.

Patients bring them apples or bananas or a TV antenna they make in their backyards for business or even a cherished ball pen.

To lessen the load on the residents and to supplement the very limited medicines that PGH can provide, the residents have established the Sagip Buhay (save a life) Medical Foundation under the leadership of Dr. Clemente Amante, chair of the UP-PGH Department of Medicine.

Its fundraising efforts have provided every resident with a monthly allowance of P6,000 for medicines for indigent patients.

For the past three years, Sagip Buhay has been sponsoring a golf tournament to raise more funds. Last year, it earned a P1 million and raised a net income of P855,000, which meant 100 patients received P500,000 worth of medicines. This year's Sagip Buhay Golf Classic was held May 29 at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

Those who wish to help the Sagip Buhay Medical Foundation can call 526-4372.

Life-threatening accident leads to lifeguard's job

By Senen Bravo

TALES OF THE CITY

ROMMEL Macaraeg, 24, thrives on risks.

In 1996, barely able to swim, he jumped from a makeshift bridge and saved a cousin from drowning.

"We were walking and he lost his balance and fell in the water," Macaraeg says in Tagalog.

The accident inspired him to become a lifeguard. "I wanted to learn more about saving lives," he says.

When he was 12 years old, he would join the elders in their barangay in Manaoag, Pangasinan in salvaging logs from the raging floodwaters.

"Danger is everywhere," he says. "You just have to face it when it comes."

He knew he had to try his luck in Manila to add to his parents' meager income. His father is a farmer, his mother a vendor.

When he received his first salary, he made sure his parents were his priority. Up to this day, he never fails to send them money.

In September 1996, he started to work at YMCA Makati as pool attendant, a job requiring skills in swimming and basic life support. He immediately took formal swimming lessons.

"I'm a lifeguard now," says Macaraeg.

When he is done with his routine tasks, he practices religiously, trying to beat his personal best time. "Beating one's time is important in swimming," he says.

His efforts bore fruit when he won his first gold medal, in the 200-m breaststroke (18 and over) in a competition at Xavier School. He then joined YMCA's swim team.

In the summer of 1998, he taught 34 Makati employees swimming basics such as correct breathing and floating. He did not leave the pool until he was sure they had improved their strokes.

Recently, he underwent a two-week basic life support training sponsored by the Philippine National Red Cross. He spiced up his certificate of completion by reaching the shore first in a one-mile swim in Nasugbu, Batangas.

"Now I can be truly called a lifeguard," says Macaraeg.

Showers in Muntinlupa jail

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHILE their counterparts in the Manila City Jail have been dying—nine so far in the past four weeks alone—because of squalid living conditions, inmates at the National Bilibid Prisons compound in Muntinlupa City are enjoying what other prisoners can only dream of, like showers.

Bureau of Corrections director Ricardo Macala on Thursday said Bilibid inmates, including those on death row, have been enjoying the use of at least five shower facilities in each cell since April.

Each cell has about 400 inmates, according to him.

Macala said that unlike in other city jails, "the inmates here at the NBP are pampered."

"Imagine, they even enjoy showers," he added.

Prison officials began installing showers in January, following last year's release by President Macapagal-Arroyo of P10 million for the NBP's water system project, Macala told the INQUIRER.

He said inmates also receive regular medical check-ups, are allowed to roam the NBP's sprawling compound and enjoy its recreational facilities daily.

At the Manila City Jail, at least 25 detainees have reportedly died of various illnesses since January.

Ramon Tipura, 48, Rodrigo Suyat, 38, and Felix Rodeo, 36, died two weeks ago, bringing to nine the number of inmates who have died at the city jail in May.

Though the deaths were attributed to various illnesses, investigators had admitted that the sorry state of the jail, particularly its poor ventilation system, worsened their condition.

The Manila City Jail is so crowded that inmates often have to set up makeshift hammocks above fixed sleeping compartments so they can have sleeping space.

THE PRIESTS of Immaculate Heart of Mary

'OUTSTANDING RADIO MAN'

Gerry Cornejo of dzRJ-AM (810 khz) was presented the "Most Outstanding Radio Commentator" award by the Consumers' Union of the Philippines in recent awarding rites at the Manila Hotel. Cornejo is co-producer and host of "KKK sa RJ," a daily program from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. that features commentaries on news and current events, consumerism and health issues. He is a veteran photo-journalist, TV, radio and news correspondent in Manila and in San Francisco and Washington DC.

Manila honor grads to get scholarships in 2 schools

By Jerome Aning

THE MANILA city government will give incentives to honor graduates of the city's public schools who will take up science and technology courses at the City College of Manila (CCM) or the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) starting in the new school year.

Mayor Lito Atienza announced this last month after a meeting with PLM officials led by its president, Dr. Benjamin Tayabas, and regents Alfredo Gabot and Aguinaldo Miravalles.

Those who can avail themselves of the incentives are valedictorians, salutatorians and other honor graduates of public schools who will enroll in science and technology courses at CCM or PLM.

The incentives will include exemption from admission tests, free books and cash allowances, according to Atienza.

He said the scheme is an integral part of his administration's educational program for the city's poor but deserving students.

He said he has directed PLM officials to prepare the guidelines for the granting of the incentives.

Atienza appealed to PLM graduates to be active in their communities to "return the favor" to the city government. He also urged them to join the city government and assured them that PLM graduates get top priority in filling job openings at City Hall.

Help build a cathedral in Antipolo City

A NEW CATHEDRAL will rise in the cool city of Antipolo—with your help.

The quasi-parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish will be the site of the new cathedral. Bishop Crisostomo A. Yalung leads the fund-raising campaign to build it along Hinulugang Taktak Road, in the compound where he now resides and which will soon be the site of the diocesan offices.

Five priests and one deacon from the diocese will team up with the 30-strong Grand Parish Choir of the quasi-parish in a two-day concert called "Handog sa Dalisay na Puso ni Maria" on June 7-8, 2002 at the Assumption College Multi-Purpose hall. Parish priest Fr. Ric Eguia, his co-priests Fr. Loddy Garcia, Fr. Eymard Balatbat, Fr. Kune Garganta, Fr. Sandy Enhaynes and deacon Rev. Roc Berdos will perform Marian and pop songs.

The priests have taken time out from their pastoral duties to preach the Good News through song and dance and have performed in concerts organized by the Antipolo diocese.

Tickets are available at the parish office (696-4387, c/o Bro. Andrew) or at the 7 Chapel Councils of the parish.

Hindi ka ba makatulog?

Ayyy!

Abangan... Bukas na!

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

If Brocka were alive today . . .

By Bibeth Orteza
Contributor

(First of two parts)

INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez-David wrote in "At Large" last May 26, 2002:

"A few days ago, a bicameral conference committee approved a version of the bill creating the Film Development Council of the Philippines, the name of the new counterpart of the FRB (Film Ratings Board). The bill, which presumably will now be submitted to Malacañang for signing into law, dropped the provision on exemption from censorship for a rated film. This provision was contained in the House version, and was in fact (Lino) Brocka's pet advocacy, insisting on a full guarantee of creative freedom for 'quality' filmmakers, without which a system of material incentives made no sense.

"There's a complicated and even heartbreaking story behind the passage of this mangled bill, which even now industry 'leaders' are hailing as the new hope, the resurrection of the 'dead' film industry. I might tell it in a subsequent column, but for now we can only imagine what Brocka and maybe even (Ishmael) Bernal, would have to say about this turn of events.

"Brocka, for one, was not one to mince words, and established his career by making a movies, (like) 'Tinimbang,' that exposed the hypocrisy and malice of so-called moralists who preyed on outcasts and corrupted the innocent. What a movie he could have made from this story!"

This, now, is what others think Lino would do if he were still alive:

"Lino Brocka consistently fought for 'freedom of expression' and would have led the Concerned Artists of the Philippines (CAP) to move for the inclusion of the censorship-free provision in this bill. He had no illusions that salvation would come from laws formulated by our politicians, that is why he also went to the streets for issues he fought for. Still, he would have been distressed, if not disgusted, to know that film industry insiders worked for the exclusion of the censorship-free clause.

But for him this would have been only one phase of the battle. He knew that the uphill climb for film development and film workers' welfare was interrelated with the people's struggle for political and economic liberation. Lino was stubborn. He would have persisted." ***Julie L. Po, secretary general, Concerned Artists of the Philippines***

"Lino put 'freedom of expression' in the 1987 Constitution, so he would have fought for censorship exemption in the film bill to the very end. He wasn't afraid of defeat; he always put up a good fight. In this case, the provision on censorship exemption wasn't even defended in the Senate and in the bicameral conference. It was summarily dropped. Lino would have none of that. Remember: He cut ties with a president because of censorship. He was never one to lick ass. The threat of a presidential veto wouldn't have stopped him. He would have wanted to let the President show where she definitely stood as far as artistic freedom was concerned." ***Joel Lamangan, film director***

"What I'm about to say is sure to be disputed by others, but I don't care. It's going to be their word against mine, and at this point I think it's clear who's up in the name of truth. I remember being with a lobby group of actors, producers, and directors in Congress for one of the earliest versions ever of this film industry bill, in the Corazon Aquino years. The bill at that time was asking only for tax incentives, and at that very moment was on third reading on the floor. I saw Lino in serious conference with Rep. Ronnie Zamora, after which Zamora told (lawyer) Espiridion Laxa: 'Brocka wants to include exemption from censorship in this bill. He's threatening to mount a big protest if the industry doesn't get it.' The bill did not get any further because of Lino's firm stand. He was not the sort who'd settle for half-measures if freedom of expression were at stake. We can't be any less." ***Armida Siguion-Reyna, producer***

"Or else, he'd comment: *'Plus ça change.'* The more things change, the more they stay the same." ***Emmanuel F. Mallonga, media events specialist***

BROCKA

"Lino would be out in the streets fighting any attempt to curtail freedom of expression." ***Ellen Tordesillas, op-ed columnist, Malaya***

"I think he'd say: 'There's really just this one ass that has to be kissed at one given time. The lawmakers chose to kiss the top ass. We're dead." ***Lore Reyes, film director***

'MURDER BY NUMBERS'

Familiar + stereotype = disappointing

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.

REVIEW

THE IDEA would have made for a great psychological thriller.

Two brilliant but disturbed high school guys decide to commit the perfect murder as their ultimate pact. Then they sit back to see if somebody could nail them for the crime.

The trailer was promising enough. The film seemed to have all the necessary elements of the genre: an intelligent and courageous heroine, a pair of young, diabolical murderers whose boy-next-door appearances make them even more dangerous, and a plot that offers a terrifying confrontation between the characters.

Alas, in "Murder by Numbers," what you see is what you don't get.

The heroine is disappointingly familiar. A hardened homicide detective who specializes in crime scenes, Cassie Mayweather (Sandra Bullock) is one of those cops we've seen countless times in standard shoot-em-ups, only she's a woman.

Don't get me wrong, I like it when women save the day in films, but please give me somebody like Jodie Foster's Clarice Starling or Sigourney Weaver's Ripley. Don't give me a female Dirty Harry.

Standard

Bullock's character is so standard she lives in a houseboat, has sex at the drop of a hat, drinks to get away from her troubled past, and consistently pisses her bosses and colleagues just for the heck of it. Sure, a woman can play a stereotypical male character, but does she really have to? It's boring enough when a man plays it.

I can understand why Bullock, who's also executive producer of this film, would want a role that could move her away from her girl-next-door image. But I don't think from-cute-to-obnoxious is the transition she was aiming for. I'd take her Miss Congeniality over Cassie Mayweather anytime.

In "Murder by Numbers," you feel more for the supposed baddies than you do for her. The screenplay takes too long in exposing Cassie's closet of skeletons that by the time they're fully revealed, you just don't care anymore. Whatever she went through is just trivia.

Cassie also goes through a character shift so awkward and sudden it's like watching Ralph Macchio in "Karate Kid." One minute he was just "waxing on, waxing off," the next minute he was kicking everybody's butt.

Weak heroine

In Cassie's case, from a strong, capable detective who relentlessly pursues the killers against all odds, she suddenly devolves into this hapless victim who can't shake off the ghosts of her past,

FAMILIAR/ A30

WORD WISE. "We try to be a little wiser with our lyrics," Joseph Hahn says of Linkin Park, which also includes Mike Shinoda, Chester Bennington, Phoenix Farrell, Rob Bourdon and Brad Delson.

Curse-free music for the young and the restless

By Marinel R. Cruz

FOR Linkin Park master deejay Joseph Hahn, there are more expressive words to put in a song than the usual profanities other bands use to attract attention.

Linkin Park is arguably responsible for the reemergence of gripping, angst-ridden tunes through their "Hybrid Theory" album.

Linkin Park songs are known for their unique curse-free lyrics that reflect the restlessness of the young, a factor that has turned the band into a big music phenomenon.

"We try to be a little wiser with our lyrics," said Hahn, who was in Manila for a four-day promo of "Hybrid Theory." The album, from Warner Music Philippines, achieved quadruple platinum status in the country.

Song writing is something that the Linkin Park members do together. Their tunes represent universal emotions that listeners can interpret as their own.

The group's adeptness in writing songs is a work in progress, Hahn told the INQUIRER. "We try to grow into good songwriters. (We hope) that each song we write will be better than the last one."

The 25-year-old deejay, who was already spinning records in high school, is excited about the experimentation involved in manipulating the turntable to enhance "natural elements like drums, guitars, bass." To effectively use the turntable as a musical instrument rather than just a tool for playing records is the greatest challenge to Hahn.

The group is expected to release a remix album, "Reanimation" late this year. A reinterpretation of songs from "Hybrid Theory," it features contributions from more than 20 vocalists, producers, DJs and musicians.

Featured artists include Stephen Carpenter of Deftones, Jonathan Davis of Korn, Aaron Lewis of Staind, Chali 2na of Jurassic 5 and Jay Gordon of Orgy.

"We brought new life to 'Hybrid Theory,'" said Hahn. "The songs are in a sense new since they don't sound anything like the original."

The band is composed of DJ Hahn, emcee/vocalist Michael Kenji Shinoda, vocalist Chester Bennington, bassist Phoenix Farrell, drummer Rob Bourdon and guitarist Brad Delson.

Linkin Park saw its beginnings in Shinoda's small bedroom studio in southern California, where he and Delson recorded their first material in 1996.

The two men met drummer Bourdon in a high school they all attended, and Hahn at the Art Center College in Pasadena. Along with bassist Farrell, they adopted the name Xero.

Xero needed a good singer. Delson, who was interning at Zomba Music Publishing at the time, hooked up with Bennington, whose previous band had crossed paths with Zomba.

It was Bennington who suggested Hybrid Theory as a name for the newly formed band. "But there was a legal dispute with the name and we had to change it," Hahn shared.

They eventually settled for Linkin Park, a word play on Lincoln Park.

Shinoda is currently in a London studio working on the remix album while the other band members are busy in California.

Hahn describes Shinoda as the "brainy computer guy," Bennington as the "bubbly, crazy one."

Drummer Bourdon is the quiet chap. "He doesn't talk much to anybody, not even to us," Hahn joked.

Bassist Phoenix "seems to always question people just to piss them off," and Delson, "well, he's something else."

Hahn hoped to bring his band mates with him to the Philippines. They plan to release their second album by the end of 2002.

More Entertainment pages on B8, B9 and B10

Ayen Munji Laurel collapses on stage as her dream comes true

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

"THIS is my night. This is my song. Standing right here out on this stage, is where I belong."

With these lyrics from **Donna Summer**'s "My Life," a song from the musical "Ordinary Girl" based on Summer's life story, singer **Ayen Munji Laurel** ended her album launch concert at the Music Museum Wednesday night.

She had to cut short the show after she felt dizzy and passed out on stage while performing. She was four months pregnant with her first child with husband **Franco Laurel**, who rushed to her side and called the doctor who had been standing by.

The show stopped, albeit only for a few minutes, after which Ayen apologized to the full-house crowd, saying she could no longer continue.

A few people in the audience made sarcastic remarks that the whole thing was staged and was part of Ayen's "life drama," but the show's session musicians attested that she always has delicate pregnancies. She has two kids from a previous marriage.

To say it was staged was rather mean. Ayen obviously wanted to please the crowd that night, a moment she had long waited for. The show took painstaking preparations. She wanted to shine, but it would have been risky for her to continue performing that night.

Ayen fulfilled a long-time dream to finally have a solo album. It was produced by SK Entertainment and released by Viva Records.

Ayen is not really a tyro when it comes to performing. She comes from a family of musicians and has been singing for more than a decade now. Noted pianist-composer **Emy Munji** is her dad who joined her in a few numbers in the Music Museum show.

Ayen reminisced that in her early years in the business, she used to do *puesto*. She sang some standard tunes from those *puesto* days.

The launch was no ordinary show. It was a big-budget production fit for seasoned concert artists such as **Martin Nievera** or **Jaya**, who were in the audience that night.

Homer Flores was the musical director who led session musicians and six back-up singers.

For the technical stuff, Music Museum teemed with tele-prompters, spotlights, wide screen monitors, multi-colored stage lights and a machine that produced colorful confetti at the end of the show. Generators were also standing by outside the theater.

Displayed in the Music Museum corridors were black and white photos taken by **Raymond Lauchengco** during Ayen's MTV shoot.

Ayen hardly danced because of her delicate condition, but she had The Whiplash Dancers who did back-up for some numbers.

Ayen was radiant in **Maxie Cinco** slinky red stretch pants matched with an asymmetrical chiffon tunic over a chantily lace blouse.

She later changed into a two-piece fuschia ensemble by **Joji Lloren**.

She gave the audience a sampling of some of the tunes in her album, like **Ryan Cayabyab**'s "Pain in My Heart," **Gary Granada**'s "Pag-ibig na Lang" and **Nory Villena**'s "Here in My Heart."

The CompanY vocalist **Reuben Laurente**, who was in the audience, wrote "Higher and Brighter." So were **Moy Ortiz** and **Edith Gallardo**, who co-wrote "No More Words." **Danny Tan** even played the keyboards when Ayen sang his composition, "One Last Goodbye."

"Don't worry, *hindi ko po kakantahin lahat ng* songs *sa* album *ko*," Ayen told the crowd.

Then she did a well-applauded OPM medley which paid tribute to the likes of **Leah Navarro** ("Ang Pag-ibig Kong Ito"), **Vernie Varga** ("Love Me Again"), **Joey Albert** ("Over and Over Again"), **Kuh Ledesma** ("Dito Ba"), **Zsa Zsa Padilla** ("Kahit Na") and **Sharon Cuneta** ("Mr. DJ").

It was a well-arranged medley that included some tunes rarely heard these days.

It would have been a bigger treat for the audience if Ayen had invited Martin to sing with her on stage. After all they recorded a duet in her album, the **Stephen Sondheim** song, "Not While I'm Around."

But unfortunately, the star of the night didn't really have the stamina to still sweat it out under the spotlight.

Too bad she didn't sing the hauntingly sentimental **Ogie Alcasid** composition, "Bawat Gabi," which is the carrier single of her album. Instead, Ayen's music video of the song (reportedly produced with a stratospheric budget of P8 million) was shown on the screens.

"Bawat Gabi" is undoubtedly a winner for Ayen. It will not take long before the song becomes a hit because of its beautiful melody and heart-wrenching lyrics.

Also in the audience that night were Ayen's kids—**Yela** and **Kiko**—as well as her friends in the business like **Agot Isidro** and **JM Rodriguez**, **Eugene Villaluz**, who produced the album for Viva Records, was there too, with Viva executive **Baby Gil**.

REAL THING. 200 live butterflies were used in the pictorial for Ayen's album, which includes this photo.

At the end of the show, there was a long crawl of credits for the production staff, creative team, musicians and back-up vocals who worked in the concert.

The date of the album launch was even delayed after Ayen found out she was pregnant. But not even her delicate condition could stop her from pursuing her long-time dream.

Dramatic effect

AYEN made sure she only had the best for her album project. During the album pictorial, the photographer's concept was to have butterflies for dramatic effect. The lensman said there are two varieties of butterflies, those that fly and those that simply alight and stay. For the pictorial, they needed around 50 of both kinds.

To the surprise of people involved in the shoot, 200 colorful butterflies were used.

We were also told that during the MTV shoot, Ayen had everything constructed, including the nipa huts on the beach where she and MTV partner **Christian Vasquez** are seen.

A staff noted, "She (Ayen) could have asked for thunder and lighting and would have gotten them, too."

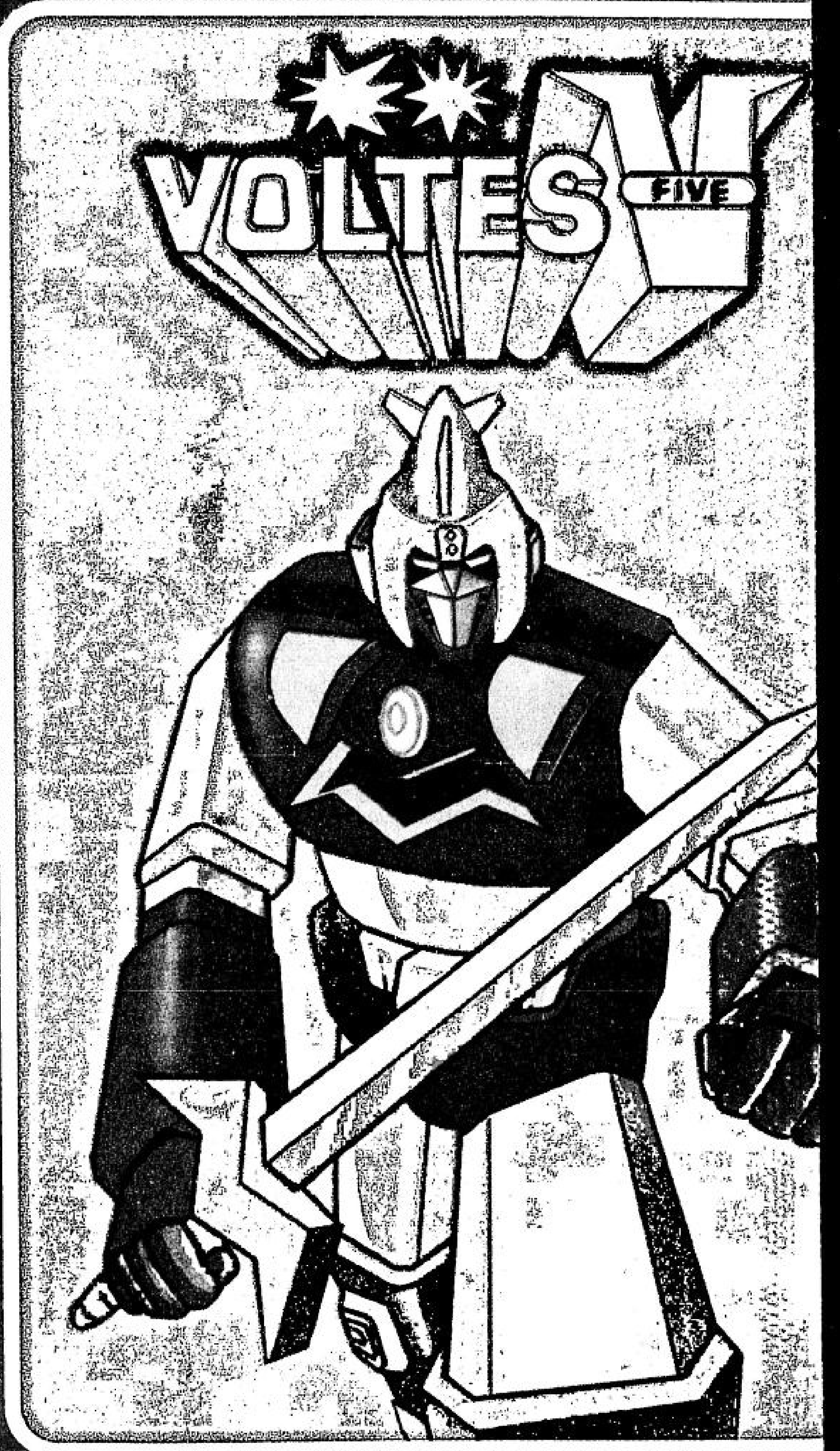
Simply Actio

HUNTER X HUNTER

Keywords: LOGO HXH, TONE HXH,
PIC HXH, GROUP HXH, SAVER HXH

GHOST Fighter

Keywords: LOGO GF, TONE GF,
PIC GF, GROUP GF, SAVER GF


VOLTES
FIVE

Keywords: LOGO V5, TONE V5,
PIC V5, GROUP V5, SAVER V5

FLAME OF RECCA

Keywords: LOGO FR, TONE FR,
PIC FR, GROUP FR, SAVER FR

BUBBLEGUM CRISIS
TOKYO 2040

Keywords: LOGO BC, TONE BC,
PIC BC, GROUP BC, SAVER BC

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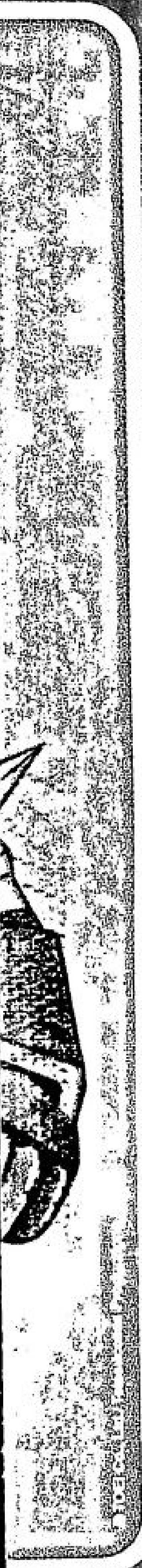

Fushigi Yûgi

Keywords: LOGO FY, TONE FY, PIC FY, GROUP FY, SAVER FY

Keywords: LOGO DM, TONE DM, PIC DM, GROUP DM, SAVER DM

o TG, TONE TG,
TG, SAVER TG

Oh My Goddess!

Keywords: LOGO OMG, TONE OMG, PIC OMG, GROUP OMG, SAVER OMG

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SMART
Simply Amazing!

d send to 235.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2174, Series of 2002

Familiar . . .

From page A27

and who's too terrified even to face one of the high school kids she's after.

The weak heroine could have been salvaged in the hands of a more capable actress but Bullock has charm, not chops that could have brought believability to her character.

The terrifying and explosive confrontation between her and the high school murderers is at best only interesting. I was getting ready for something big, especially after going through a forensic orientation worth two episodes of CSI (the AXN forensic series). Every last ounce of mystery is squeezed out after the film presents a blow-by-blow account of how the not-so-perfect murder (after all) is executed, but at least it gives the audience a good glimpse of the brilliance of the minds of the budding sociopaths.

Gay subtext

Which is why the finale is unacceptable. Armed only with a plot paved with conveniences and clichés, Cassie and her partner Sam Kennedy (another role that wastes the talent of Ben Chaplin) overpower the dynamic duo of Ryan Gosling and Michael Pitt quite easily.

All throughout the film, the high school pair is the one that shows potential. I almost wanted them to get away, or, if they should lose, it should at least be to superior foes, which Sam and Cassie are not shown to be. In the end though, they are unceremoniously exposed as just a couple of high school kids who get caught doing something wrong.

Gosling and Pitt are electrifying performers. As Richard Haywood and Justin Pendleton, respectively, they bring to life a complex relationship with a very strong gay subtext. Justin is the thinker living in the world of Nietzche and Rimbaud. He defends a class thesis whose main argument is "Every free act is a crime. Crime is freedom. Evil is the only true manifestation of freedom." Naturally, he is a loner in school. His secret friendship with Richard is the only stable relationship in his life.

Just one

Richard is the cool guy on campus. He's rich, handsome and a master manipulator who always gets what he wants. He has little in common with Justin aside from trouble brewing within their opposite personalities. Together in their hideout—an empty lodge conveniently sitting on a tall cliff (so unoriginal)—they discuss murder as a challenging philosophical and intellectual exercise.

These are kids no parent would like to have. What drives them to become the poster boys of crime? The film never digs any deeper. They just are. This, after all, is not real life. (Alas, another disappointment.)

I would normally recommend a film if I could just find three good things to say about it. In "Murder by Numbers," I can cite only one. I guess the film's numbers don't add up after all.

Si JOYCE
Meron kaya talagang "Mr. Perfect?"
I think I'm in LOVE
An Official Entry for the 2002 Manila Film Festival
Directed by Maryo J. delos Reyes
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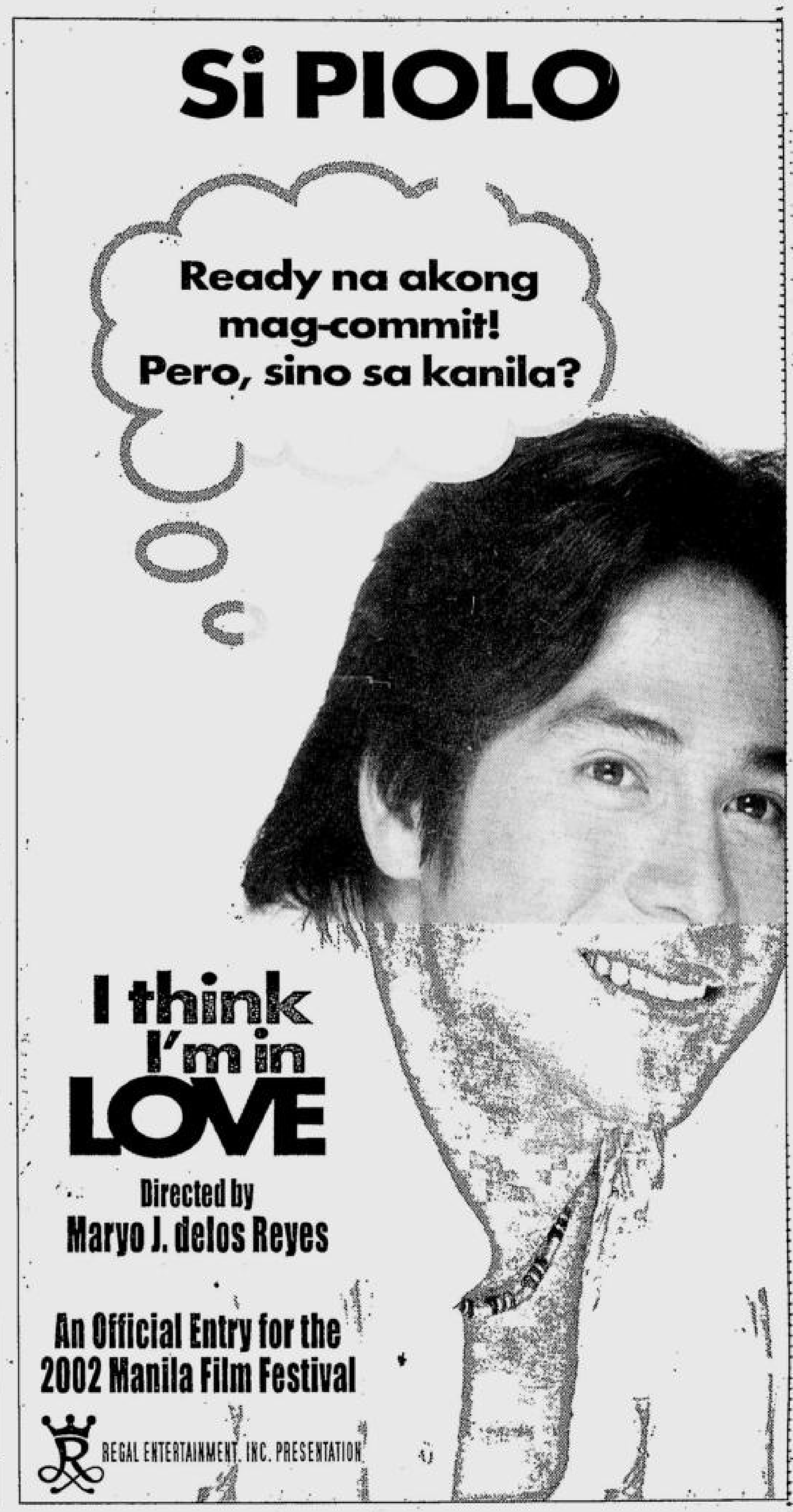
Si PIOLO
Ready na akong mag-commit! Pero, sino sa kanila?
I think I'm in LOVE
Directed by Maryo J. delos Reyes
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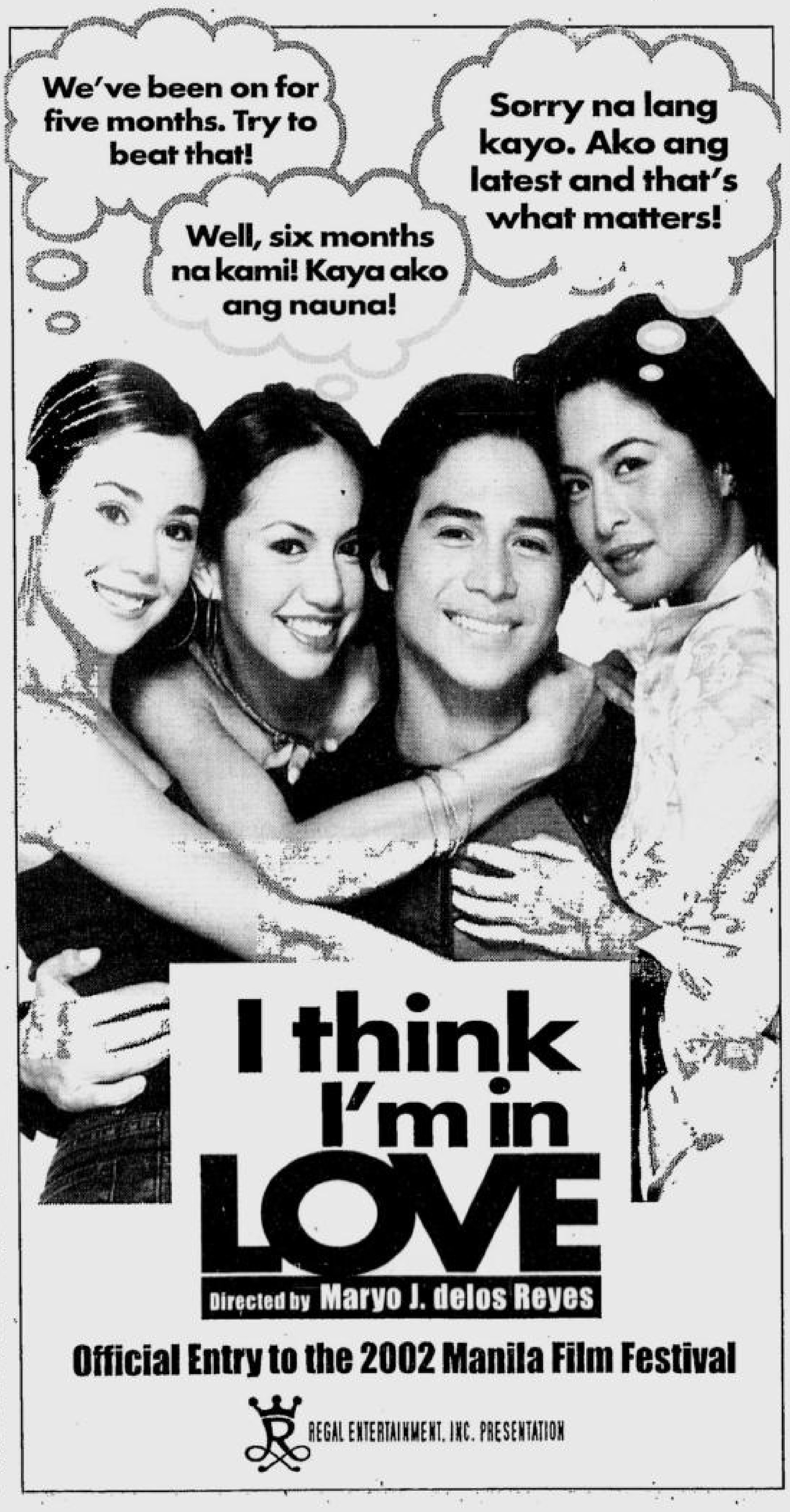
We've been on for five months. Try to beat that!
Well, six months na kami! Kaya ako ang nauna!
Sorry na lang kayo. Ako ang latest and that's what matters!
I think I'm in LOVE
Directed by Maryo J. delos Reyes
Official Entry to the 2002 Manila Film Festival
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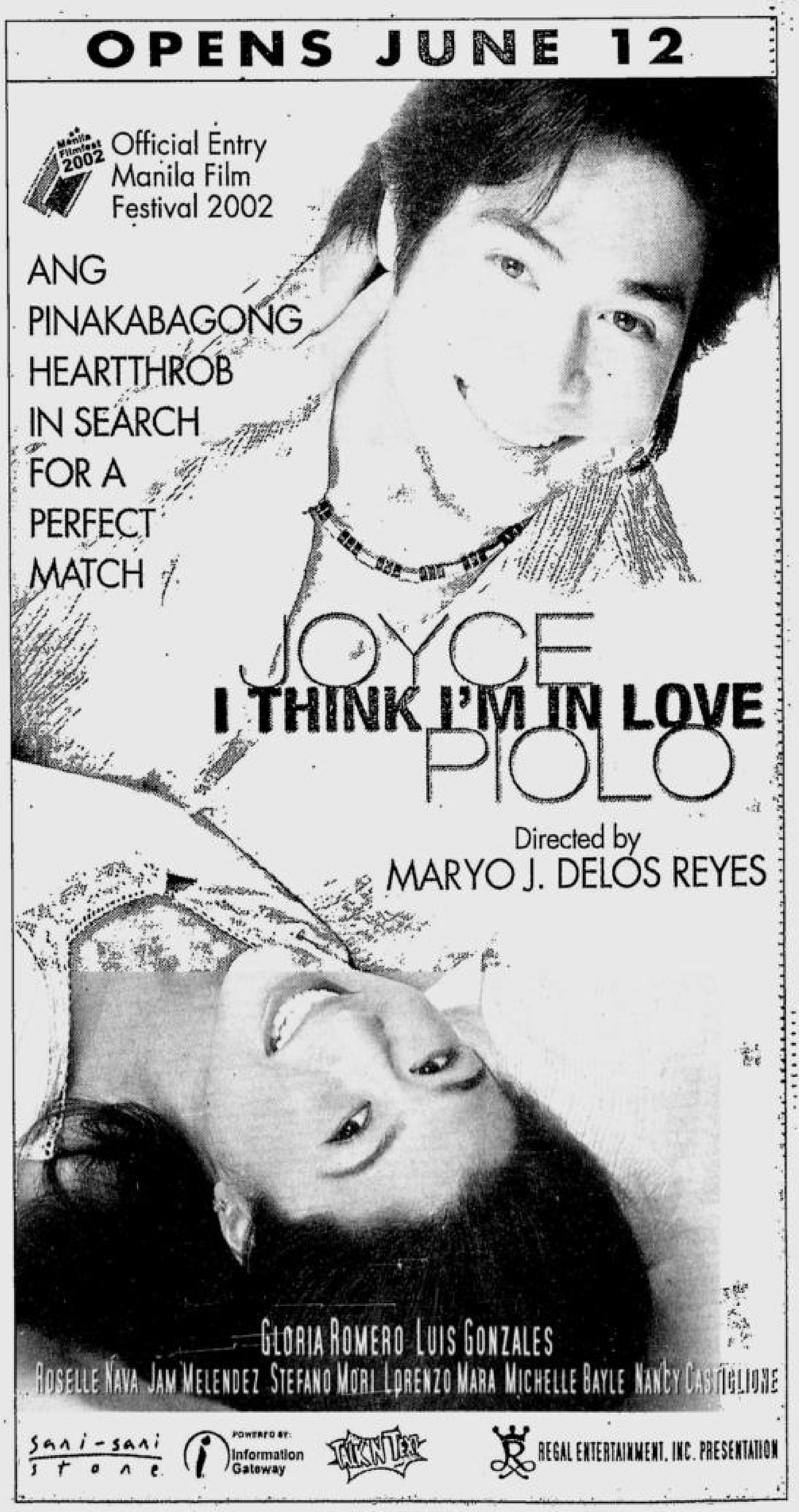
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JOYCE
I THINK I'M IN LOVE
PIOLO
Directed by MARYO J. DELOS REYES
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	STAR WARS
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ODEON-2	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
ROBEN	PAGSALUHAN
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	WE WERE SOLDIER / E T.
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ACT-3	CLOSED
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CAINTA RIZAL	
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CINEMA-1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-2	LIGAYA
CINEMA-3	PAGSALUHAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-6	IN THE BEDROOM
CINEMA-7	AKALA MO
CINEMA-8	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JIHAD WARRIOR
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CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
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CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

True Faith vies for MTV awards

TRUE Faith, the multi-awarded pop-rock band that popularized hits like "Perfect," "Huwag Na Lang Kaya" and "(Awit Para) Sa Kanya," is up for another honor in the forthcoming 2002 MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards.

The band is vying for the best video by a group award for their song, "Sumasarap ang Gising," from their recently released genre-defying album, "Legalized Intense Vague Emotions" and "True Faith Livel Halo-Halo Myxed Emotions."

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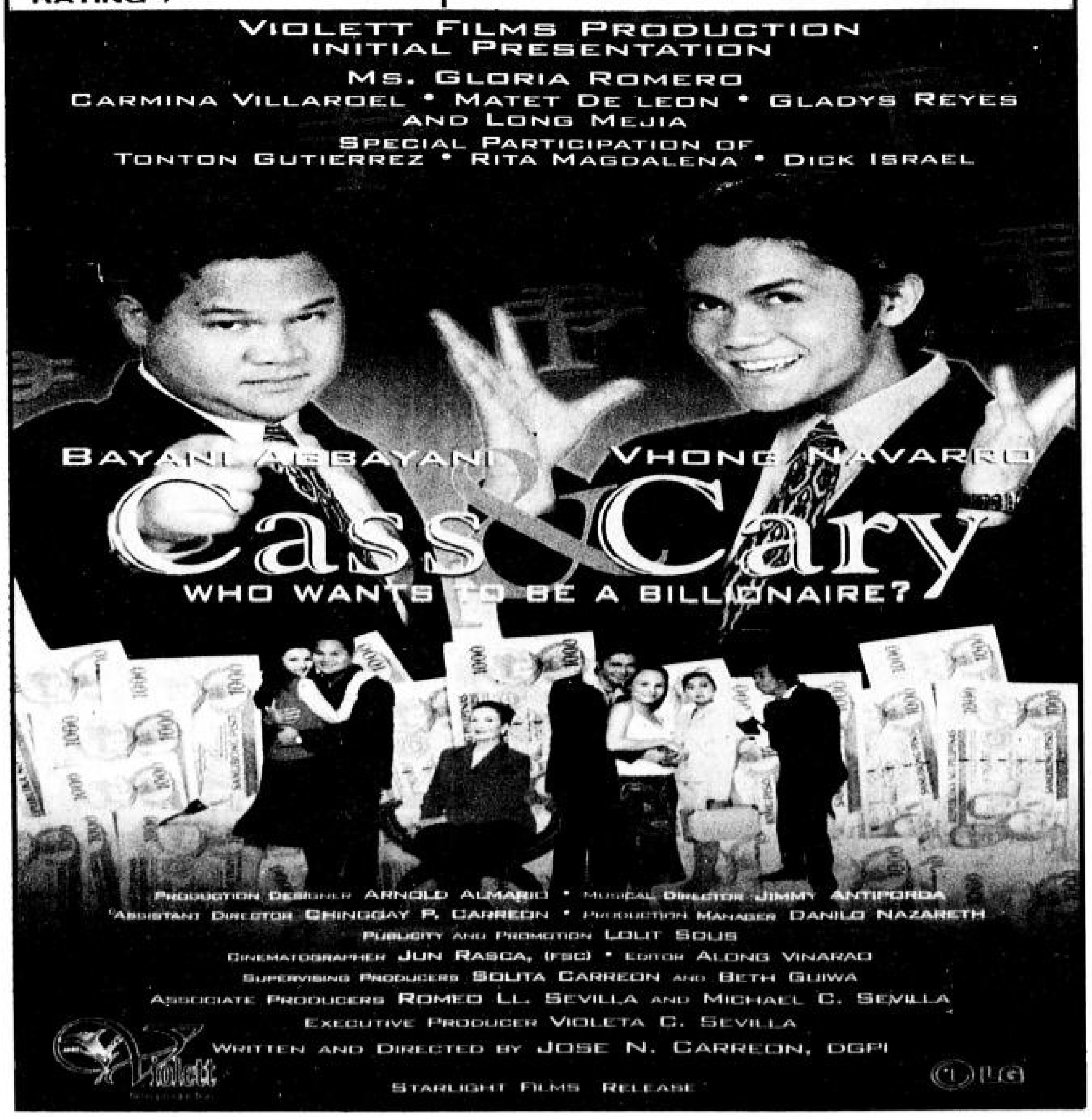

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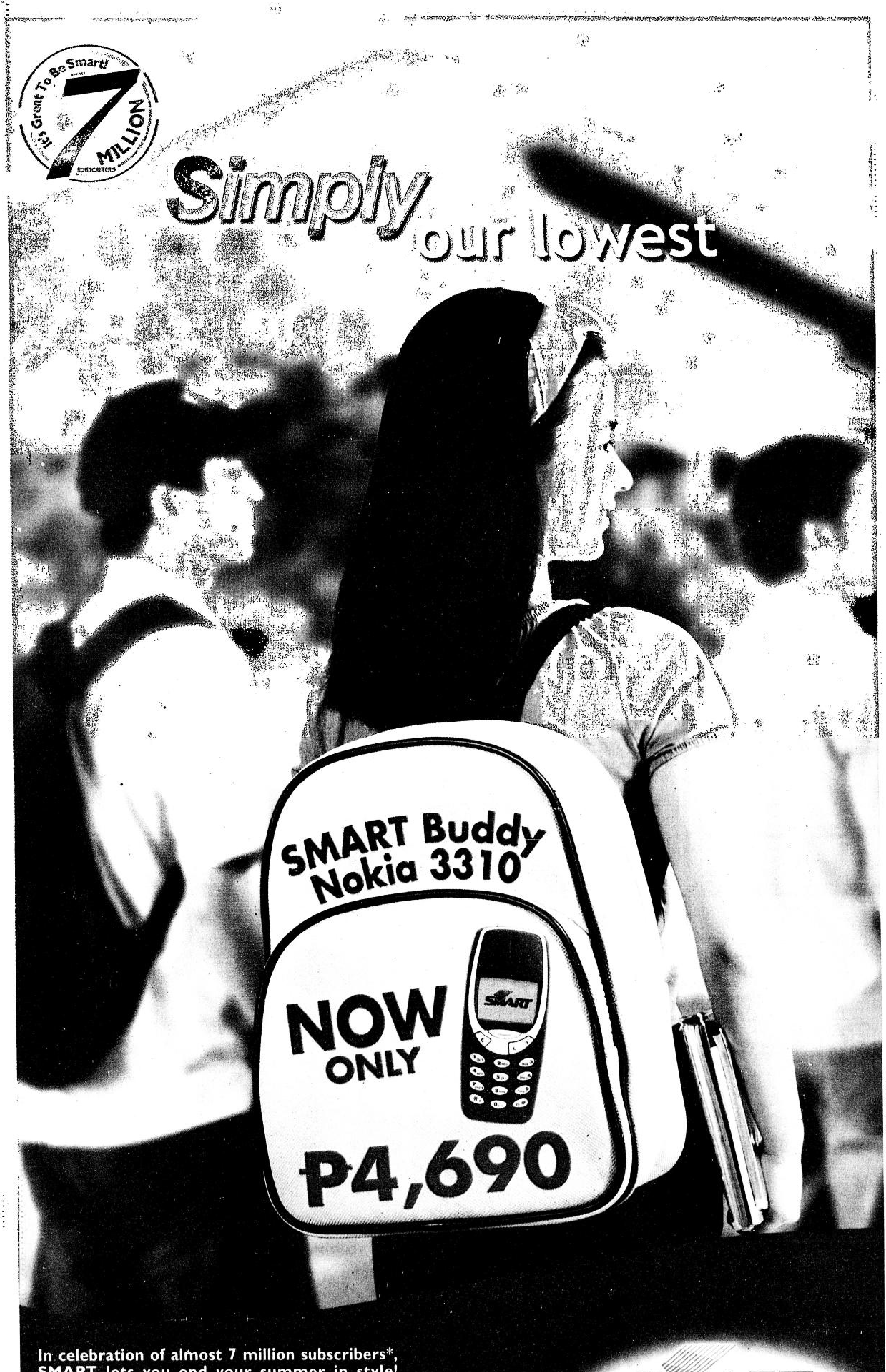

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Sunday BIZ

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ● *Business Features Editor* **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Exec rose from glorified 'girl Friday' to one of country's top accountants

CHIT L. Manabat in 1967 when she graduated from the University of the Philippines.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FIRST JOB

SHE started out as something of a glorified girl Friday in 1968—an assistant to the consultants of Carlos J. Valdes and Co., the second largest auditing firm in the country at that time—receiving the minimum wage rate of P6 a day.

Conchita L. Manabat, Philippine representative of Deloitte Touche Tomatsu, said she did everything for the consultants—from sharpening pencils to carrying their working papers during meetings.

But her boss, Carlos J. Valdes, immediately saw the potential in her and soon included her in all of his meetings, all that time exposing her to the rudiments of the accounting and consulting professions.

"I was lucky to be given good assignments and in five years I was operating independently from the other consultants and I reported directly to the managing partner. I was

EXEC/ B4

MANABAT today with Sr. Mary John of St. Scholastica's College where she taught for 25 years

Changing guard at NBC seen part of news decline

NEW YORK—Never again will television network news wield the power it did the last time it underwent a changing of the guard, say experts who see NBC anchor Tom Brokaw's retirement as the latest step in a persistent decline of the broadcast media industry.

Hammered by competition from 24-hour cable news, not to mention the immediate accessibility of news on the Internet, the nation's three nightly network news shows attract about 30 million viewers.

That's roughly half the number who were watching when NBC's Brokaw, CBS' Dan Rather and ABC's Peter Jennings landed their top jobs in the early 1980s, say the experts, adding that number is likely to continue a dramatic drop.

Brokaw became the first of the longtime Big Three to announce his retirement this week, with plans to leave in 2004 after 21 years as anchor of "NBC Nightly News."

But experts say the might of the news anchor is going the way of network news itself. That is, they say, down.

End of TV?

"Television just can't make people that big anymore. Those guys came from an era when there were three networks with a 95-percent market share," said Michael Wolff, media critic at New York magazine.

Even the longevity of the Big Three anchors attests to the network's decline, Wolff argues.

"One of the reasons the present bunch hung around so long, and one of the reasons the networks would do almost anything to keep them around, is there will never be any anchors as famous as these guys ever again," he said.

As the anchors' fame diminishes with the size of their audience, the figureheads could lose clout both inside and outside the networks, said Ken Auletta, author of the book "Three Blind Mice: How the TV Networks Lost Their Way."

Internally, he says, powerful anchors can lobby network business executives on behalf of news, while externally, they are the public faces that attract viewer loyalty.

"With a large audience, you are an icon. When you begin to lose that audience, will you lose your authority?" he said.

Their decline puts network news itself in peril, he says.

"At what point does a local station say, 'I want my 6:30 p.m. show back because I can make more money?'" Auletta said. "Clearly the anchors bring something to those local stations. Tom Brokaw is a face they can use. It gives them an association with a network and an authority figure."

Fewer viewers

Some suspect NBC will take a viewership hit as it ushers in the first of the next anchor generation, with MSNBC's Brian Williams succeeding Brokaw after the 2004 US presidential election.

MSNBC is a joint venture of Microsoft Corp. and NBC, which is owned by General Electric Co.

"The numbers are going to change," said Marvin Kalb, a former network news correspondent who now serves as executive director of the Washington office of the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy.

"With people having so many choices, once their anchor decides to leave them, they may have the feeling it's time to leave NBC," he said.

But it doesn't necessarily hurt NBC to be the first to install a younger anchor in its nightly news show, a forum that generally attracts an older audience, said Carl Gottlieb, deputy director at the Project for Excellence in Journalism, a Washington, D.C. think tank.

Williams is 43, while Brokaw is 62, Jennings, 63 and Rather, 70.

"In terms of looking to build a future audience, this is probably a good move," Gottlieb said.

New breed

NBC said it plans to spotlight Williams heavily on the network before he takes over his new job, a plan widely seen as trying to expand his experience beyond his anchor spot at cable channel MSNBC, where he has been a mainstay for six years.

All Big Three anchors had extensive reporting experience, and it's bound to be part of promoting Williams, industry figures said.

"Part of what determines influence in a network newsroom is experience, gravitas and the reputation you make for yourself," Gottlieb said. "We know they have to position Brian and, frankly, even with your eyes closed, you can probably figure out how they're going to do it. Hard news, big stories, Brian showing up on the scene wherever."

But all the gravitas-building the networks engage in probably won't bring back network news as it was in the days when CBS' Walter Cronkite was dubbed "the most trusted man in America," say the experts.

CHANGING/ B6

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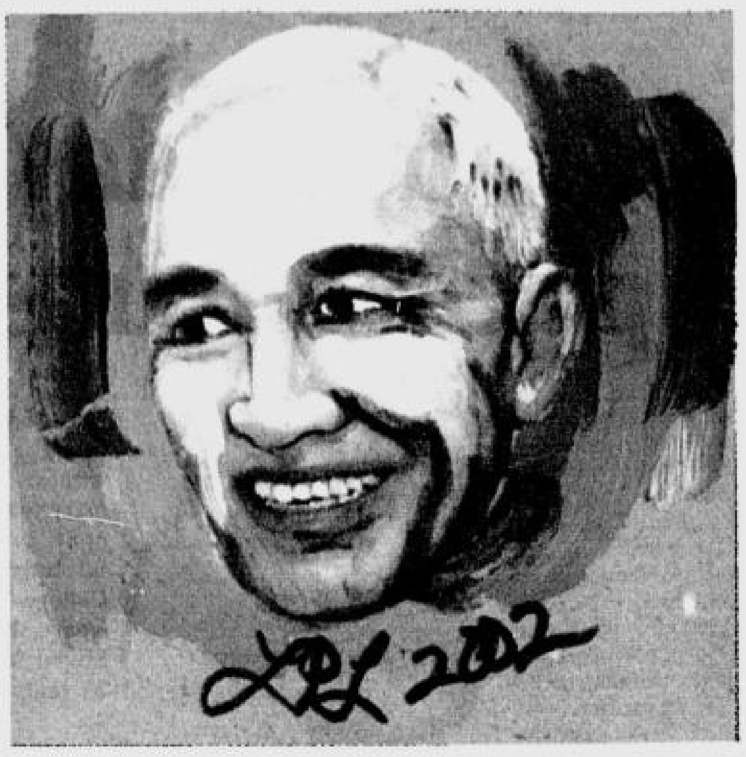
BY L.P. LEVISTE



LAND Bank of the Philippines president Margarito Teves was recently ordered arrested by the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board for contempt. The arrest stemmed from Landbank's alleged failure to pay P75 M for 54 hectares of riceland in Cabanatuan City. He was released but issues on the proper valuation of properties linger.

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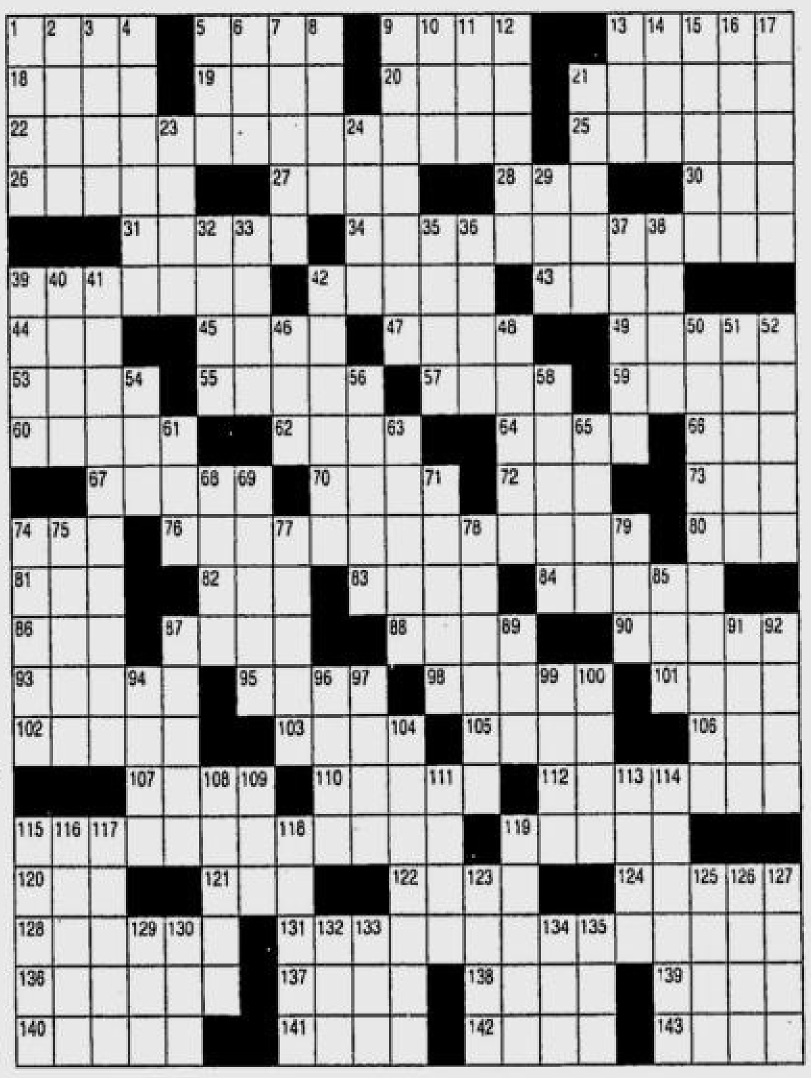
UCPB TIES UP WITH DMCI FOR PLUSH ORTIGAS HOUSING PROJECT
UCPB assistant vice president and real estate department head Yolanda de Claro (extreme left) joins in the groundbreaking ceremonies for DMCI Homes' Ortigas Mansions project in Pasig. UCPB and DMCI Homes have been working closely in a number of middle-to-high end residential projects like the Morning Sun and Lakeview Homes in Taguig and the Hampstead Gardens in Sta. Mesa. The goal of the collaborative effort is to provide the two companies' shared market the homes of their dreams. Joining Ms de Claro in the Ortigas Mansions' official groundbreak were Pasig Mayor Solly Eusebio (center, partly covered) and other DMCI officials. Parties interested in acquiring units in any of DMCI's residential projects may call UCPB's Home Loan Help Line at telephone numbers 878-5030 to 36.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

SELF-DIRECTED



ACROSS
1 Way through the forest
5 Enthusiastic
9 Rappers — -n-Pepa
13 Encrypted
18 Sweet sandwich
19 Son of Isaac
20 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
21 Big name in chocolate
22 Self-directed in "Henry V"
25 Hockey's Yashin
26 Facilitated
27 Queue tip?
28 Stirrup site
30 Taxing org.
31 A little night music?
34 Self-directed in "Bulworth"
39 Vacation home
42 Friday's creator
43 "Stop!"
44 Ransom — Olds
45 Broccoli —
47 Lots of time
49 It gets wet as it dries
53 Ohio city
55 First-class
57 Wool gatherer?
59 Atlanta campus
60 Peter of "Casablanca"
62 Seeks change?
64 Parent
66 Lennon's lady
67 Frequently
70 Mlle., farther south
72 Supply with Stens
73 Uproar
74 Geldof or Goldthwait
76 Self-directed in "The Bridges of Madison County"
80 "Definitely!"
81 Clerical garb
82 Slangy suffix
83 Actress Louise
84 Stage stuff
86 Wahine's wreath
87 TV's "Family —"
88 Floor model
90 Gush forth
93 Actress Dominique
95 Behalf
98 Hurried
101 — vera
102 Photographer Adams
103 Cheerful song
105 Turner of "Peyton Place"
106 Be human
107 Velvety plant
110 Lake near 36 Down
112 Aphid apparatus
115 Self-directed in "Dances with Wolves"
119 Break a commandment
120 Actress Tatyana
121 GI's address
122 Promise
124 Discernment
128 Tire type
131 Self-directed in "Modern Times"
136 Pronto
137 Cabbage cousin
138 Absquatulate
139 JVC competitor
140 Pithy
141 Goblet part
142 Pop one's pecs
143 Sundance's sweetie

DOWN
1 Jab
2 Neck of the woods
3 Hamilton bills
4 Candid
5 Fathom
6 Deciduous tree
7 Building feature
8 Atmosphere
9 Southwestern capital
10 Orthodontists' org.
11 Poultry serving
12 Snicker sound
13 Mil. rank
14 Dryden work
15 "Ipse —"
16 Tennis player Chris
17 Dagwood's dog
21 "Ninotchka" star
23 Best of films
24 "— forgive those . . ."
29 Plus
32 Brute
33 Genuine
35 Inn offering
36 Nevada city
37 Computer key
38 Mighty mite
39 Battery
40 Hodgepodge
41 Self-directed in "Bob Roberts"
42 Do more than dislike
46 Chest protector
48 Skimmer material
50 Self-directed in "Annie Hall"
51 Singer Maresca
52 French port
54 Word from a whippet
56 Snowy bird
58 Biblical tyrant
61 Catchall abbr.
63 Formal
65 "Porgi —" (Mozart aria)
68 Wells creatures
69 Frasier's brother
71 Ed of "Roots"
74 Hobby wood
75 City on the Allegheny
77 Twangy
78 Hot stuff?
79 Smidgen
85 "— culpa"
87 Crow's toe
89 — -Locka, FL
91 Podiatric problem
92 Jealous Olympian
94 Half (Pref.)
96 Singer Eartha
97 Dash
99 — the finish
100 Hamlet or Kierkegaard
104 Proposition
108 It'll give you a weigh
109 Soak up
111 Spoken
113 "Cheerio!"
114 Slip by
115 Metal measure
116 Gladden
117 Director King
118 Darned things
119 Seashore souvenir
123 Petty clash?
125 Job opening
126 Add color
127 "Only Time" singer
129 Officeholders
130 Expert
132 Arlen's "The Green —"
133 Flagon filler
134 Artichoke heart?
135 Spell

ANSWER ON PAGE B5

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MEDICAL EXPERTS ON ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION
E.D.torial

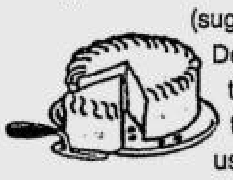
This week's columnist:

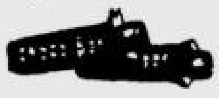
Dr. James H. Wee, M.D.
Consultant in Internal Medicine

"SUGAR AND SPICE"

What every man (and woman) should know about SEX and DIABETES.

Most athletes take a winning approach to staying on top of their game. This is the same approach that we should take with a chronic disease like diabetes. Diabetes happens when there is a build-up of too much glucose (sugar) in the blood (hyperglycemia). Depending on the type of diabetes, there is either too little insulin in the body and/or the body no longer uses insulin efficiently, which prevents glucose from leaving the blood and entering the cells where it is used, depriving tissue cells of the energy they need to function well.





There is a good reason to stay on top of your game with diabetes management, because controlling this illness can help you reduce the risk of developing diabetes-associated complications... one of which is Erectile Dysfunction.

Yes! Erectile Dysfunction can be a consequence of diabetes! Did you know that approximately 1 in 2 men suffering from diabetes will have Erectile Dysfunction to a certain degree? This is especially true if they have had their diabetes for a long time or if their blood sugar levels are uncontrolled.

...1 in 2 men suffering from diabetes will have Erectile Dysfunction...

When diabetes is uncontrolled, the following may cause erection problems:

- damage to the nerves in the penis
- damage to the blood vessels in the penis
- blood sugar levels that are not under control
- heart disease caused by diabetes
- diabetes medications

If you are diabetic and have erection problems, don't be discouraged... there are things that can be done to help you achieve a healthy sex life. Keeping your blood sugar levels under control can help you maintain normal erectile function and prevent damage to nerves and blood vessels. Depending on the cause of your erection problems, your doctor can suggest a specific treatment that can help you have and maintain an erection. Currently, oral medicines are the primary treatment used. Generally, they are effective and safe regardless of the cause of the condition.

Having diabetes does not mean an end to sexual intimacy in your relationship, especially when there's a convenient and safe solution for erectile problems. Taking a step toward solving that problem will take courage. But remember... it can be as easy as talking to your doctor. Do it today!

We'd like to know you!

Please text us at **0917-8PFIZER** (0917-8734937) or **0918-9PFIZER** (0918-9734937) if you are male and suffering from Diabetes. Get a chance to receive a Diabetes Health Kit.

Just please text us the following:

PFI (space), ED (space), Age (space), Name (space), Address

Sample text:
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Should you have questions about E.D. or comments regarding this column, please write to: Pfizer mEDex (**mEDex@Pfizer.com**)
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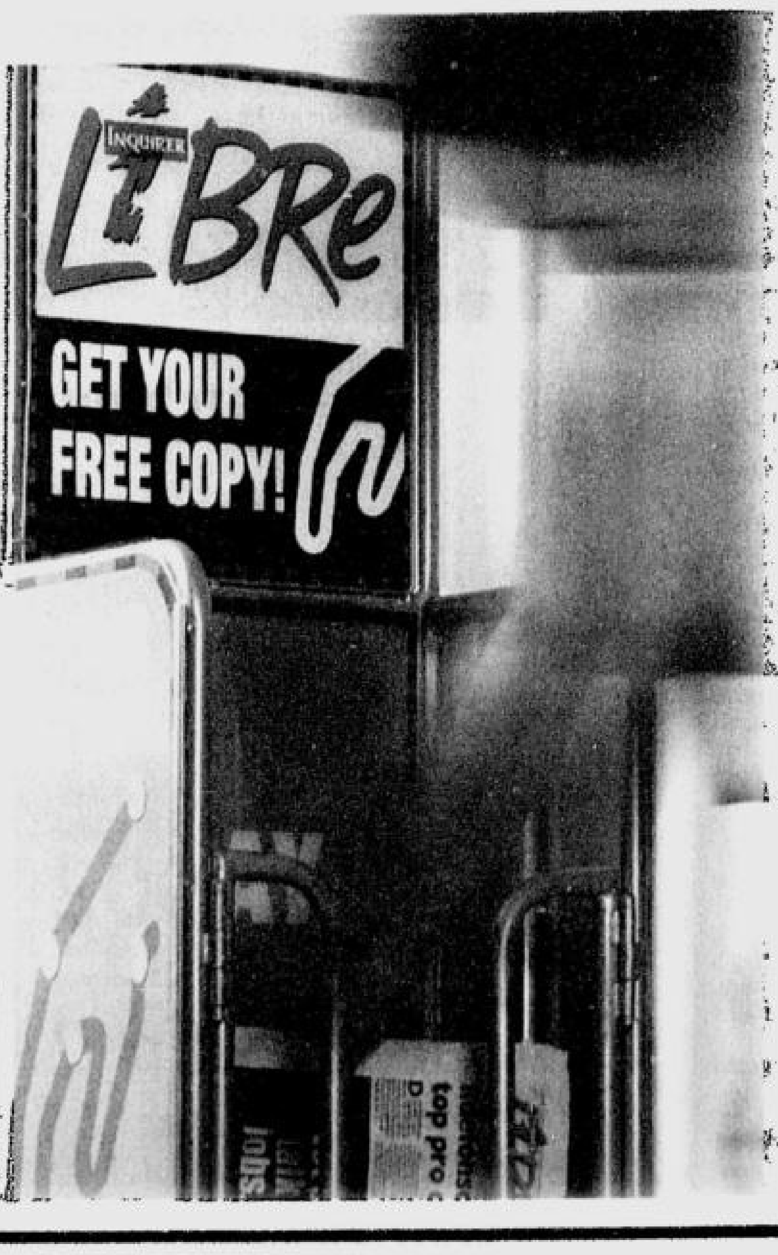

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LIBRE
The best things in life are Libre

Traditional Igorot handwoven products go global

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—As a child growing up in the village of Alab in Bontoc, Mt. Province, Antonia Cambod would help her mother reel and roll threads.

Her mother would then fasten around her waist a back-strap loom with a warp of threads whose ends were attached to a post or a tree and would begin weaving.

By the magic of her hands, Cambod's mother would weave a *tapis* (a wrap-around women's skirt), a *bagket* (a wide belt to hold the tapis) and wanes or g-string.

The traditional apparel Cambod's mother would weave were intended for members of the family. This traditional skill, which Bontoc women used to do after farming breaks, is called back-loom weaving simply because the back-strap loom is used.

Cambod didn't expect that the skill she learned as a child from her mother would become her main livelihood. Failing to finish college because of an early marriage, Cambod ended up applying and was taken in as a weaver at the Episcopalian Church-run Easter Weaving Room Inc. (EWR) in 1976.

Now 56, Cambod has since been promoted to supervisor of 35 regularly employed weavers at EWR. She says she owes much from her mother who taught her to weave. The skill has since helped her husband, a policeman, bring food on the family's table and send their children to school.

Interesting history

The EWR has an interesting history. It dates back to 1906 when Rev. Charles Henry Brent of the Episcopal Church of the United States founded the Easter School here.

From Bontoc, some 200 km north of here, Brent's aides transported eight boys to be educated the American way at a once cogon-thatched Easter School.

Five years later, some girls followed. After classes, they would reel and roll threads and weave these into garments through crude looms fastened around their waists.

The Bontoc girls' skills awed the lady missionary supervising the girls' school, who is now remembered only as Deaconess Hargreaves. She immediately integrated the traditional Igorot back-loom weaving technology into the school's home economics subject.

The girls' small classroom became known as "the Easter Weaving Room."

From this room, the girls would produce traditionally designed place mats, table napkins, tablecloths and other items, which became the school personnel's and American missionaries' and colonial officials' perfect gifts to friends and relatives overseas.

Practically every major landmark in the city, including Easter School, was bombed in World War II. Every property of the school was burned and destroyed except for a box of thread, which was enough for the Easter Weaving Room to reopen in 1948.

The little Easter Weaving Room of old now thrives, not as a school, but as a non-profit, non-stock corporation, whose 20 percent of profit goes to the Episcopal Diocese of North-Central Philippines.

The corporation continues to preserve and develop the traditional weaving skills of Igorot women like Cambod and other younger women and give them livelihood at the same time.

"Traditional loom weaving is actually a dying craft because our children would opt to become doctors, engineers, accountants and lawyers," says Virginia Doligas, EWR general manager.

"But we wish to continue Deaconess Hargreaves' vision when she integrated traditional loom weaving into the curricula of the early Easter School. And that is how to preserve and continue bringing to life a rich traditional craft."

Proudly handmade

EWR's 35 regular weavers and 10 sewers now do their craft in a two-story building, with the weavers at the basement. And they no longer use back-strap looms, but 35 wooden looms made from the Ilocos.

Still, their products are made by the sturdy but dainty hands of Igorot women, many of whom, like Cambod, learned to weave from their own mothers in the villages.

EWR makes products that carry the traditional distinct design of each of the six Cordillera provinces—Benguet, Mt. Province, Ifugao, Kalinga, Apayao and Abra.

Although EWR still makes traditional apparels such as *tapis*, native blouses, and g-strings, the company's products—made either from cotton, acrylic or polyester threads—have also evolved over the years.

EWR's products now include tablemats, bags, wallets, purses, shoes, slippers, vests, jackets, coats, dresses, skirts, neckties, belts, bed covers, pillow cases, wall hangings, rugs, Roman shades, desk and telephone pads, priest stoles, Christmas decors, wedding gowns, and many more.

An added innovation is tie-dyeing design. Threads are dyed first before they are woven. Tie-dyed woven fabrics are among the favorites for school and company uniforms.

Still another innovation is interweaving threads with other Philippine fiber products such as *abaca* or hemp and a grass called raffia.

EWR continues to evolve new designs and products. "We (members of the board) meet from time to time to innovate and design new products," says Doligas.

The company is also open to new unsolicited ideas and advice. Doligas cites a table mat design a visiting French tourist suggested. "That product we called 'Tyler place mat' was and continues to sell like hot cakes," she says.

Global market

Aside from supplying some department stores in Metro Manila, EWR's products have found their way into the global market.

Every three years, for example, China's Beijing Palace Hotel orders an average P200,000 worth of mint-green place mats.

THE Easter Weaving Room now produces clothes, tablemats, bags and Christmas decor.

Since 1989, various US-based buyers have also been ordering each year an average P12 million worth of EWR products, most of which are clothing such as vests, jackets, coats, shawls and mufflers.

Since 1990, Japanese buyers have been ordering a bulk of woven clothing worth P4 million each year.

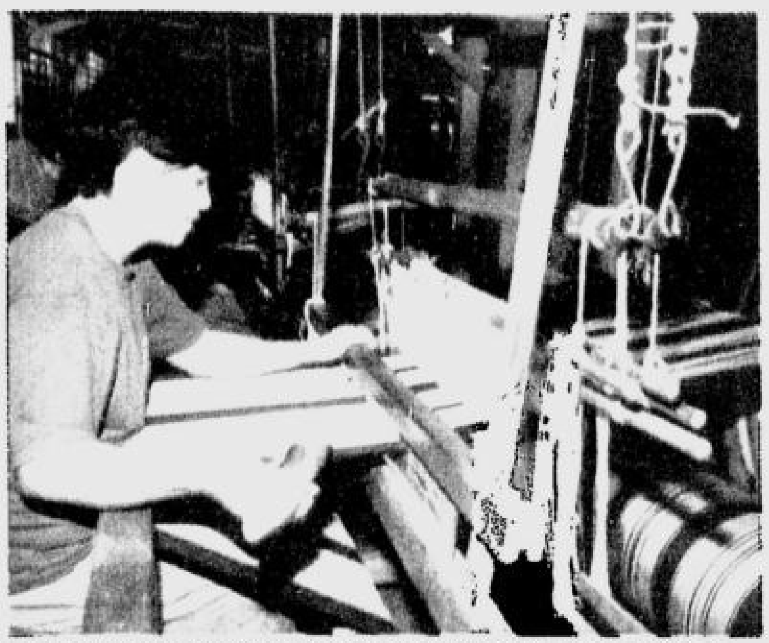
There are also a few buyers in Europe but Doligas says the European market for EWR's products has yet to be expanded.

In fact, Doligas will attend the next annual International Igorot Consultation (an annual event of overseas Igorots) in London on June 27 to July 1 mainly to promote not only EWR's products, but also the Igorot's traditional weaving craft and culture.

With EWR's products going international, Doligas says proudly: "We can prove that what is indigenous or native can become world class."

"And remember," she adds, "the best are still made by experienced hands."

Those hands belong to Igorot women, who, as little girls, were taught to weave by their own mothers back in the villages.


IGOROT women in the villages were taught to weave by their mothers as little girls.

PHOTOS BY TOOTS SOBERANO

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MANABAT with her faculty in St. Scholastica's

MANABAT with former President Fidel V. Ramos when she was appointed chairman of the Board of Accountancy

THE teacher (center) with her students

Exec rose from glorified 'girl Friday' to one of country's top accountants

MANABAT with her beloved parents Felipa and Vicente

From page B1

like a partner even if I was not," Manabat tells SundayBiz in an interview.

Manabat says the consulting work was not structured, as the requirements depended on the situation and the client; thus putting her resourcefulness and independence to the test.

She, however, was able to quickly organize her thoughts and meet challenges head on and these she owed to her experience at the University of the Philippines where she got her degree in Accounting.

"The orientation in UP was that you were responsible for your own successes. You must be able to think fast on your feet and maximize resources. You can not afford to make mistakes because you would be left behind," she says.

"I learned early to be independent. If you fail, you only have yourself to blame," she adds.

Her school training went well with the demands of her job with Valdes, whom she described as someone who was very good at client relationships, charismatic, authoritative and had the ability to see the bigger picture in his mind.

Manabat, however, considers her direct boss and managing partner Linda Viardo as her role model and eventually her close friend.

"I carry up to now the things I learned from her such as integrity and honesty. She was a brilliant person, a summa cum laude graduate and a board topnotcher, but at the same time was very soft spoken. She was an inspiration," Manabat says.

Corporate life

Viardo even cried when Manabat decided in 1974 to leave the accounting firm and move on to the corporate side of the business.

For more than 10 years, Manabat worked in different corporations mainly as a consultant—from Friendship Tours and Resorts Corp. and to the Marsteel Consolidated group where she worked as chief finance officer.

"There I was exposed to all types of businesses from retail to semiconductors to agriculture," Manabat says.

Marsteel patriarch Antonio Martel was like a father to her and it was with him that Manabat expressed her desire, after close to 20 years of being employed, to strike out on her own, and put up her own practice.

Manabat says Martel initially discouraged her from doing so, saying that it would take years before she would be able to earn from her practice what she was getting as CFO.

He even told Manabat to put up her own little practice in the office but that she should continue to be employed.

She, however, would not be dissuaded from her plans.

First client

"I told him that I wanted to work out of the office and when he learned that I was serious he offered to be my first client and he was and to this day, I still do consulting work with the Marsteel group," Manabat says.

She says she wanted her own practice because there were some things that she saw in the course of her work in corporations that she wanted to change, but only through her own company.

So with just her and her secretary, Manabat put up her own firm in 1986, first under her name and then under First Philippine Consultants Inc.

A friend offered her office space in exchange for her consulting services.

Manabat was working independently until 1988 when she combined her practice with those of Jaime Laya and Carmela Salgado to get the local representation of giant account firm Ernst and Whinney.

It was a short-lived representation, however, as Ernst and Whinney combined with Arthur Young, thus creating the firm Ernst and Young.

The Laya, Manabat, Salgado and Co. CPAs then became partners with Grant Thornton International then Coopers and Lybrand International from 1988 to 1997 after which Manabat again decided to go on her own.

"I wanted to concentrate on my own practice. I started with just the consulting work and 12 people but then we got more work so I decided to put up a full blown accounting practice from consulting to audit, to tax," Manabat says.

Then in 1999, her firm was asked to represent Deloitte Touche Tomatsu, which hastened the growth of her business.

Deloitte was happy with C.L. Manabat as the Philippine practice became the fastest growing among Deloitte's offices during that year. As Deloitte's managing partner once said, Manabat was a true DTT—determined, tenacious and tough.

She combined the demands of building her practice and winning accounts with her teaching responsibilities at the St. Scholastica's College where she was a part-time dean, and with the graduate schools of Ateneo and De La Salle where she lectured. After 25 years, she recently retired from St. Scholastica's.

It was perhaps because of her dedication to her career and the demands of her teaching that Manabat did not get married and have children.

She, however, does not lack for family with seven siblings who, like her, were put to school by the sweat of the brow of her parents who worked as market vendors in Biñan, Laguna to provide them good education.

Parents as teachers

Manabat says her parents came from humble beginnings but they believed in providing their children with the best education they could afford.

Her father had a stall in the market. He would get livestock, butcher them and then sell them wholesale. Her mother, on the other hand, was a homemaker who helped provide food on the table by tending her small sari-sari store.

"My father was a great man. He taught me that if you don't cheat your fellow man, you can sleep well at night. He always believed in honesty, trust and confidence. He would also always say that in business, it is better if someone owes you something, rather than you owing something to someone else," she says.

"He also believed in doing a good deed. He was not very religious but he believed that there is someone up there. He told me that if I do good, you will receive a lot in return," he adds.

Manabat says she tries to impart these same values to the more than 200 employees of C.L. Manabat and Co., and other insights that she got from working in the profession and in dealing with the top business leaders as part of her work with Finex which she now serves as president.

"I tell the staff that we are in the practice of upgrading the profession. I always believed that the atributes of a good professional are competence, honesty and hard work, integrity and conscience," says Manabat, who once chaired the Board of Accountancy.

She says she is lucky that the staff are as hard working as she is, which helps explain the continued growth of C.L. Manabat even in these times of crisis.

"I owe it to them because I can not do it myself and I try to lead them by example. For me, heading a company is not very different from teaching. It is all about sharing and I think I will continue to do so all my life, until I give my last lesson," Manabat says.

FLASHBACK

CHIT L. Manabat joined the work force in 1968 when bands like Dave Clark 5, Rolling Stones and the Beatles ruled the airwaves. Young people's idea of a good time was to go to house parties with combos blaring the latest music.

Fashion consisted of bellbottom jeans, headbands and bouffant hair stiffened with hair spray.

Her pay of P6 a day was actually big at that time as minimum fare was 10 centavos, a bottle of Coke was sold for 10 centavos and gasoline was 8 centavos a liter.

When she started working, she and her friends would eat lunch in Chinatown where a lauriat would cost around P2 a person.

GRADUATING valedictorian from Pagkakaisa Elementary School in Biñan, Laguna, in 1957.

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Dying printing business gives birth to newspaper

THE high school graduate said publishing was an entirely new thing for him.

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—No other newspaper from Mindanao can claim to be the most widely circulated in the island except the Mindanao Gold Star Daily (MGSD), a tabloid-sized daily published in this city.

And despite the crisis that continues to rock the newspaper industry, MGSD, which circulates in all of Mindanao's 20 provinces and 19 cities, is in the black.

But would you believe that the daily was conceived to save an ailing printing press in 1989?

Ernesto Chu, the man behind MGSD, was never a journalist by profession.

Chu, now 51, never set foot in college after high school at the Xavier University in 1971.

Instead of pursuing a degree, he opted to start his own business, initially putting up a hardware store.

No to hardware

Realizing that the hardware business was not for him, Chu ventured into the printing business and set up shop in a 200-square meter property along Pabayo Street in 1989.

With P200,000 as capital, Chu bought a printing machine.

But barely three months into the printing business, he found to his dismay that there were more thorns than roses.

He decided to fold up and try another business. But an employee, who might be too afraid to lose his income, tried hard to convince him to try newspapering instead.

The employee, whom he did not identify, reasoned out that there was no daily newspaper in the city.

"Well, why not? There was no daily yet in Cagayan de Oro and it might do well, so I gave it a try," Chu said.

But even as he already fixed his mind to try newspapering, the only purpose he had then was to save his printing business.

And so on July 1, 1989, the MGSD, then named the Goldstar Daily, after Cagayan de Oro's fondness for words with "gold" in it, started to roll out of the only printing machine Chu had at that time.

Chu said there was no definite plan as to what the newspaper would be. He said publishing was an entirely new thing for him.

Contrary to expectations, however, Chu said Goldstar did not do well during its initial days.

"I found out that the city was not interested about the paper. We printed 300 copies per day but the newspaper hardly sold. I realized that if I would depend only on the sales in Cagayan, I would soon be out of business. So I decided to expand to other areas to increase circulation and hopefully, sales," he said.

Initially, Goldstar was dispatched to Iligan City, where readers warmly received it.

"I then bravely expanded to Butuan, Malaybalay and eventually to other areas. That's the time I decided to add 'Mindanao' to the paper's name," Chu said.

With the expansion came the problems such as the sustainability of income. Despite its wide circulation, MGSD only had a handful of advertisers.

So, he decided to prioritize local stories instead of national stories to perk up interest.

"I learned about the editorial and management policies of the paper along the way. It was costly because of the trial and error. There were times when I was about to give up, however, I took pride in starting it and that there were still strategies to be explored," Chu said.

And so it was normal then for MGSD to carry stories about fiesta celebrations, awards ceremonies and barangay events.

New policy

Allan Mediante, GSD's editor in chief, admitted there was a time he got sick of Chu's policy.

"Where can you find a fiesta story in the front page? Later on, I realized that stories like that worked in our favor," Mediante said.

In 1995, things started to change for MGSD.

Chu acquired four more printing machines. The increasing number of prints, then 25,000 per day, forced him to move to a rented warehouse.

"We did not transfer because of the newly acquired four printing machines but due to the tons of paper required by our number of copies," he said.

Along with the increasing copies and points of circulation, Chu found it necessary to relegate some of management jobs. He recruited people in the provinces and cities and helped them establish bureaus and agencies.

Aside from overseeing circulation and securing advertisements, the bureaus and agencies were also tasked to gather reports from their localities.

"I did not tell them to coerce someone just to get ads but use their public relations in getting one," Chu said.

The people manning the bureaus and the agencies do not get regular salaries, but they make money from commissions on advertisement placements.

Chu said problems also started to develop with his desire to bring in more people to help.

"Hao-shao" journalists, who were unfortunately recruited into MGSD, began to sow disorder.

Some people started to lose trust in MGSD and Chu was alarmed.

Credibility

There were also people who would directly tell him to influence his editors about certain stories.

"I told them the story could not be stopped from being printed," he said.

Chu said that unwittingly, he was reestablishing the paper's credibility.

"Nobody can pressure me because I started this paper on my own," he said.

So he was forced to fire out the "hao-shao" ones and recruited new managers and writers, even if they could hardly write a news story.

Chu admitted that the recruitment of neophytes really troubled his editors, but instead of admitting he might have made the wrong decision, he started to send them to seminars and trainings.

He also launched the Mindanao Center for Countryside Journalism, where MGSD recruits learn how to write a story.

Before the Asian financial crisis, MGSD was making about P12 million per month from advertisement and circulation, but Chu said he was not bothered even if it drastically went down.

He said with an average net income of P1.2 million per month, MGSD remains in the black and is now considered as one of the influential newspapers circulating in Mindanao.

It now employs about 40 regular workers and has more than a hundred correspondents all over Mindanao.

The bulk of the workers are assigned in the printing press, while the others are in the editorial and marketing sections.

Despite the success that he is now reaping, Chu did not forget to give a portion of what God has given him. ***Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Battered wife turns to caring for others' skin

By Ruth Fernadez-Yap
Contributor

IS skin care a vanity? Most who have not undergone facial treatment would say so. But to others, caring for the skin is not just a beauty regimen but a relaxing activity that removes stress and other pressures.

For this woman, it is the activity that has fed her and her children.

The 45 square meter skin clinic does not have any indication of the not so distant past where she had to struggle as a battered wife. Nor does it reveal the challenging years that followed as a single parent. But it gives away one thing—this enterprising woman is a woman of strength and strangely—of power.

Blesilda Bulquerin may just as well be what her name suggests—blessed. But like in anything else, her being able to open her own clinic and run her own business is a result of many years of hard work and more years of stringent lifestyle. Her real investment: blood, sweat and tears.

Not born into an entrepreneurial family, she has no idea whatsoever in the field of business. No business know-how, no money to invest, not even connections to giver her the breaks. One might think she had the prefect for a failed business endeavor. But her skin care clinic at the country's premier business district is doing brisk-business.

Friends call her Dolly. She had tucked a degree in Commerce in the early '80s then plunged right ahead into marriage. For that single moment, she abandoned all her plans in favor of her family. One daughter after another—and it took four of them before she realized that she can still make something out of herself. She packed her things and her children's and together they hid. It was while in hiding that she discovered her strength to deal with the future.

MODEL/actress Wilma Doesnt with Dolly Bulquerin

She never imagined herself in an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. job. For many years, she was the skin care expert of one of the classiest salons in the Metro. In her hands, many celebrities and non-celebrities alike have found their friend, figuratively and literally. For many years she cared for and gave radiance to the often neglected and really exposed part of our bodies—the skin. It was fun, but once again she felt used and abused. There was something in her employers that made her feel a little exploited.

"I have to work really long hours, until 3 a.m., but they would not even give an overtime pay." Not even a simple recognition. She grew determined everyday to put up her own salon. She quit her job at the salon and accepted home service, from where her earnings grew considerably. And then the dream comes true.

It took her 18 years to finally open her own skin care clinic. Emancipated once again, was how she felt.

Her skin care clinic, Dolly Trading on Cityland Condominium 8, is frequently visited by loyal customers. Despite the stiff competition, her business continues to flourish. And why not, while all the other skin clinics in town charge impossible rates, hers remain at a very friendly, affordable rate. And she gives personalized service to everybody. Celebrities or not, small or big names. Also, she gives honest, straightforward assessment of a client's problem. "No beating around the bush. This is the problem, and here is my suggestion."

The growing number of her clients are mostly "word-of-mouth." There are giants in and around the Metro that can threaten her business but Dolly is assured and secured.

Sure she believes in good advertising strategies. But she never forgets that the best advertisement is her product. So everyday, she makes it a point to remind her staff to make a good advertisement—"perfect your work." And it has been creating miracles everyday.

Her four girls have all grown, and in the coming years she intends to put up one clinic for each one of them. And to maintain a steady number of satisfied clientele, Dolly intends to operate and even improve her skin clinic for many years. "The best part of this business is to see your clients growing." Dolly continues to train and invest in equipment that will help her business. She works almost tirelessly too. This time, willingly and with only good feelings in staying late to attend to a client's needs.

"I have never had a night or a social life since my separation."

Her only form of relaxation is conversing with her four daughters and her Creator. "I guess, people who weren't born to luxury are not inclined to have too much pleasure trips."

Replacement cell phones key to success—study

CHICAGO—The future success of mobile phone makers will depend on their ability to sell "replacement phones" because 77 percent of total global unit sales by 2005 will come from consumers intent on replacing older phones, said a study released on Thursday.

Total handset unit sales are expected to grow to 455 million in 2005 from an estimated 427 million in 2002, according to the study, prepared by the Shosteck Group, a wireless consulting firm based in Wheaton, Maryland.

During the same period, replacement sales, or the percentage of phones sold to replace older phones, will grow to 77 percent from 54 percent of total units sold.

"Worldwide, annual subscriber increases peaked during 2000 and 2001 at between 230 and 250 million. In subsequent years they will decline toward 100 million," said Herschel Shosteck, chair of the Shosteck Group.

"With this, replacement sales have become the major driver of the handset market."

To capture this market in an increasingly competitive environment, the study noted that major mobile phone makers are dividing into two camps.

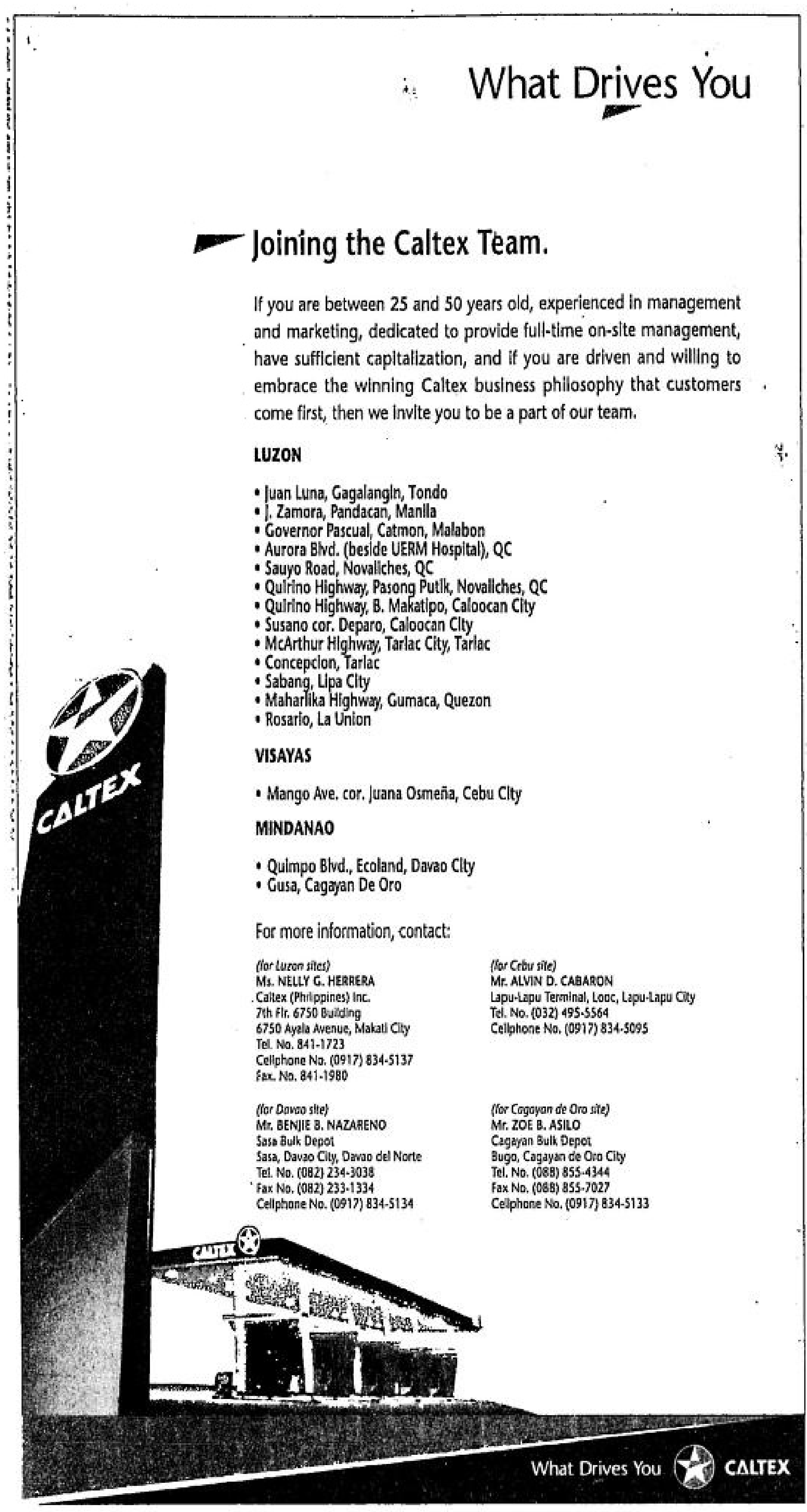
Motorola Inc., Sony-Ericsson and Siemens are trying to draw consumers through low-end phones, while Nokia and Samsung are attempting to capture the market with the strength of their brand and greater functionality, the study said.

"The validity of these strategies will determine which handset vendors dominate in 2005," said Jane Zweig, chief executive of the Shosteck Group.

As wireless operators switch to advanced wireless networks with high-speed Internet access, the difference in price between the old and new technologies will be key in the adoption rate of new mobile phones, the study said.

In other words, the price difference must be minimal to convince consumers to buy new phones that can take advantage of the next-generation networks.

Color screens will be a driving factor in encouraging consumers to try the advanced data features, the Shosteck Group said. *Reuters*



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Changing . . .

From page B1

"No one upcoming, Brian Williams included, will have the impact Walter Cronkite had," said Kalb, who himself was one of the best-known journalists of TV News' golden era. "Today the market has fractionalized into so many cable operations. Add the Internet to it, that there are so many more opportunities for people to go elsewhere."

Wolff said he sees the three networks' market share tumbling still more in the years ahead, with perhaps one-in-five television viewers watching network news, from the days when nearly everyone watched one of the network's nightly news broadcasts in the Cronkite era.

"It used to be a monopoly, the networks, and then the monopoly was radically broken up," Wolff said.

Brokaw's move raises speculation about what the other networks are planning, particularly because NBC chose a new anchor with more perceived experience behind the desk than in the field, said Matthew Felling, media director at the Center for Media and Public Affairs in Washington.

"It can be seen as troubling to the hand wringers and the navel gazers," he said, "that it's one step away from the ticker tape toward the tanning bed. Are we valuing the facts or the presentation?

"This does lower the bar of expectations for ABC and CBS in terms of who they will get to replace their figureheads," he added. "They'll easily be able to say 'He's not just a pretty face,' with a hand slap at NBC." *Reuters*

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SundayBIZ

Firm expands from samurai balls to ready-to-eat seafood dishes

SEACHAMP's Reynaldo & Annie Sy

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

AFTER quitting her job as a chemist with San Miguel Corp., Anna Marie G. Sy simply wanted to teach chemistry.

And she did for a year. But the time the job consumed and the cost of bringing her to school and picking her up made her and her husband rethink her career.

She had quit San Miguel in favor of family life. But she did not have the luxury of being a full-time homemaker. She was invited by her in-laws to work in the family business which was dried fish.

"It was a good experience, I learned a lot from my father-in-law. I learned how to deal with customers, how to sometimes sell without a profit so that it will create an opportunity for a next sale," she says.

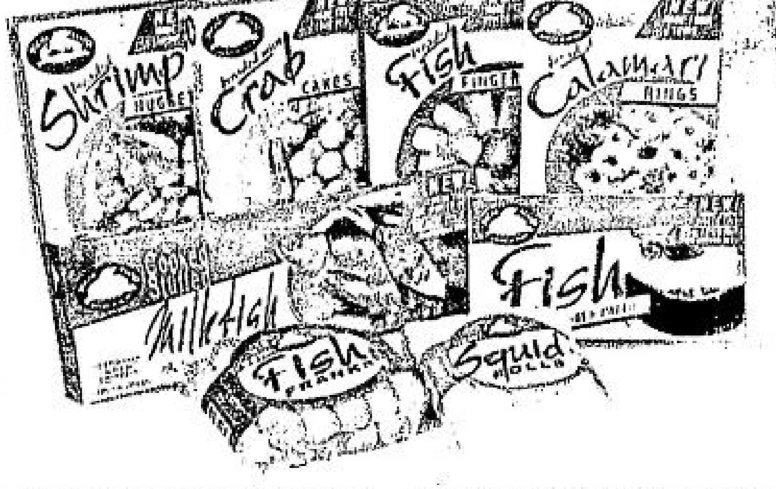
It was not long however before the entrepreneurial spirit arose in her husband, Reynaldo, and together they went into the seafood business. They set up Seachamp International Export Corp. with seed money of P1 million.

They had a Japanese partner who had been doing marketing of Asian goods in Japan. They were initially into trading of dried shrimps which their partner was selling in Japan. That was in 1988.

Then they went into manufacture of breaded shrimp or ebi fry. But as Sy says "it was short-lived because we could not compete with the raw material prices of other countries like Indonesia and Thailand."

They decided to shift to something that had abundant raw materials. They discovered samurai balls made of octopus.

For eight years since 1992, Sy and her husband exported samurai balls to Japan. These were microwavable food that were very popular in Japan. They were the first company to successfully make microwavable products for the Japanese market. For this distinction the Department of Trade and Industry awarded Seachamp the Golden Shell Award for Manufacturing Excellence in 1995.



At their peak they would export about 120 metric tons a month. The average was 80 MT in four containers. They worked on three shifts of 100 workers each shift.

But that success story did not last forever. "We stopped when the Japanese economy went down and labor prices went up. The balls are made manually," Sy says.

At the start they were buying the raw materials from exporters. But they could not control the prices as they were paying export prices. So they decided to source the octopus themselves.

"We became major packers of octopus," Sy says.

The octopus are sourced from Palawan, Davao, Surigao, Zamboanga. She shares that the Philippines is actually the second largest exporter of octopus. The biggest is Chile. These sea animals are actually fished manually. She says the Philippines can produce one million tons a month.

They would export the octopus that are cleaned and frozen to Japan, Europe, United States, Canada and Venezuela. They have five plants and eight buying stations. They produce eight containers a month.

The diversification into octopus exports save the business of Sy and her husband when the demand for samurai balls went down.

Recently, Seachamp diversified into something new that opens two new doors in the local and export markets.

Two years ago they realized that there are very limited seafood available in the local market and the fishes being sold are the same.

They told others about the possibility of a business there but "there were no takers. So we decided to do it on our own."

Recently, Seachamp diversified into ready-to-serve seafood dishes under the brand name Polar.

"Our dishes are specially prepared for those concerned with their fat intake and dietary requirements," according to Sy, Seachamp's VP for operations and head of its development team.

The ready-to-eat dishes come in boxes and are being sold in major supermarkets. Since they deal with seafood, which spoil easily and definitely need very good cooling systems, Sy says they have people to inspect the refrigeration of their outlets.

Products include *rellenong bangus, calamari* rings, fish franks, squid rolls, fish burgers, shrimp nuggets, stuffed crab shells.

They have already started exporting their products and have brought these to Hong Kong and China. Sy says the *rellenong bangus* is very popular in the United States.

Finally, a Locsin building you can enter without being all dressed up. The Ayala Greenfield Estates Village Clubhouse.

Photo taken on site.

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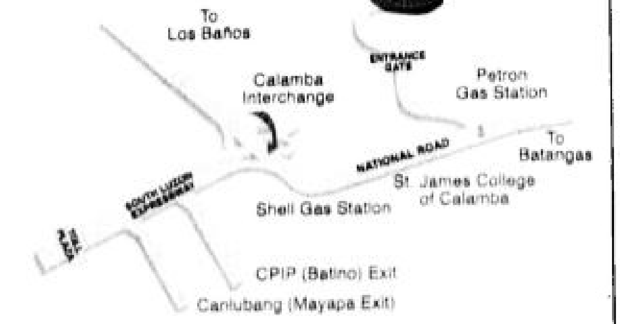

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For Inquires, call: 911-7882 / 911-8148 and look for Amie Mejia or any ERB Personnel

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SECRETARY

Fluent in English, familiar with MS Word, MS Excel.

Please call Amy at 741-4737 or go to 3rd Flr. Ersan Bldg., 32 Quezon Boulevard, Quezon City

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To work as part of a competent team for **Siemens Power Operations Inc.**, the operator of the Combined Cycle Power Plant with approximately 1500 MW in Sta. Rita, Batangas City, the Company is inviting top caliber individuals to assume the position of:

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Performs procurement functions and handles contracts negotiations.

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We offer a competitive remuneration package including fringe benefits which will commensurate with qualification and experience.

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Interested parties are requested to forward a detailed resumé with a copy of their transcript of records, contact telephone number and a recent passport sized picture to:

SIEMENS POWER OPERATIONS, INC.
Sta. Rita Karsada, Batangas City 4200
or
SIEMENS POWER OPERATIONS, INC.
P.O. Box 34720
Batangas City 4200

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
SECRETARIES

Applicants must have college degree or 4-year secretarial course; at least five years of progressively responsible administrative/secretarial experience; proficient in typing, stenography and word processing. An excellent command of oral and written English is highly desirable. Knowledge of MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and other common software preferred. Word processing, typing, steno and English skills will be tested.

Compensation commensurate to work experience and previous salary. In addition to annual salary, employee will be entitled to vacation/sick leave privileges, mid-year and year-end bonuses, health/life insurance coverage and a retirement plan.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN JUNE 14, 2002.

SEND LETTER OF APPLICATION WITH COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ TO:

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AN ESTABLISHED CHAIN OF BUSINESS-ORIENTED HOTELS IS IN NEED OF

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(For STA. ROSA, LAGUNA BRANCH)

- ✓ Less than 30 years old
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- ✓ College graduate, preferably Marketing or Mass Communication major
- ✓ Good command of the English language (written and oral)
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Send your resumé/bio-data and a 2x2 inch colored photograph to **EL CIELITO INN at 804 Pasay Road, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City.**

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To market high quality European Fragrances.

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ARMM SOCIAL FUND FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO STAFF FUND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

BACKGROUND.

The Government of Philippines (GOP), in the pursuit of its parallel strategy of promoting peace and development in Mindanao, and of promoting expanded autonomy of the ARMM, together with the Regional Government of ARMM, is currently finalizing the preparation and processing of a proposed ARMM Social Fund for Peace and Development (ASFPD) Project. The World Bank has been requested to finance the project (and possibly other donor(s)). The on-going SZOPAD Social Fund Project is being funded by the OPEC Fund and the World Bank, and is in the final year of implementation. The proposed ASFPD Project, to be implemented over a 5 year period, aims to help build peace and reduce poverty in conflict-affected and conflict-influenced communities in the ARMM Region. The main focus of the project is to support community-driven development approaches and to strengthen institutional capacities and governance in the ARMM region, working in close collaboration with on-going programs.

Based on a transparent and competitive selection process, the OP and the ARMM Government are seeking competent candidates to staff the Fund Management Office (central office to be located in Zamboanga City, and 2 area offices, to be based in Cotabato City and Zamboanga City (or Sulu). The FMO is a semi-autonomous agency in the Office of the President, under the overall direction of a high level Board of Directors and Executive Director appointed by the President. Well performing staff from the current FMO of the SZOPAD Project are encouraged to apply.

The main functions of the FMO technical staff positions are outlined below. A copy of the detailed terms of reference (TOR) for this position can be obtained by contacting the office of the ARMM Executive Secretary Nabil Tan (Office of the ARMM Regional Government, ARMM Complex, Cotabato City, tel. 064-421-1224/25 or ARMM Manila Liaison Office, RCI Building, 5th floor, Legaspi Village, Makati, tel., 02-814-0612).

Qualified candidates are requested to submit their expression of interest to the above office, Attention of Executive Secretary Tan, and include the following items: letter stating interest in the position and providing a concise summary of the main reasons why the candidate presumes to be qualified for the position; a detailed curriculum vitae, a birth certificate, copies of education degree(s), and 3 employment/professional references (with contact information). This information must be received not later than June 14, 2002.

The candidates will be screened by an independent/impartial human resource experts, based on selection criteria. A short list of candidates will be interviewed by a panel comprised of the OP, ARMM, and the FMO Executive Director (being recruited). The panel will rank them according to the following primary criteria:

(i) Relevant experience in complex and multisectoral projects, involving multiple stakeholders; Mindanao experience is essential;
(ii) Effectiveness in leading/working in multi-sectoral teams and strong teamwork skills;
(iii) Relevant educational background and technical skills (including computer literacy);

Up to six of the highest ranked candidates will be requested to participate in an interview by the same panel which will assess the information in the application and rank them based upon their application. Target dates for selecting staff are not later than end-July, 2002. Candidates are requested to submit their application and supporting information not later than June 14, 2002. The terms of the consultancy contract will be renewable yearly, subject to performance, with an attractive remuneration package consistent with "market-based rates" for Loan Project in Mindanao.

LIST OF TECHNICAL POSITIONS:

(1) **Operations Director/Deputy Executive Director:** Be in charge of all Project operations; in the Executive Director's (ED) absence, act as the ED; supervises all work and decision-making in the Project's 5 components and 2 area FMOs; ensure FMO staff adhere to the procedures in the Operational Manual (of OM), and ensure annual updating; ensure periodic reporting.
Qualifications & Experience: College degree (M.A. is preferred); Strong operational and management experience (at least 15 years), preferably with multi-sectoral investments in Mindanao.

(2) **Executive Assistant to the ED/SPAC Coordinator:** Manages the agenda of & communication flows of the Executive Director, coordinates the subproject approval committees (SPACs) at the area level; helps ensure compliance to procedures in the OM;
Qualifications and Experience: College Degree; relevant operational experience (at least 10 years)

(3) **The Internal Auditor:** Responsible for the internal auditing of the Project's financial management; Supervise work of subcontracted auditors;

(4) **Head of M&E and MIS Unit:** Responsible for organizing and supervising Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Management Information System (MIS) and Information Dissemination;
Qualifications and Experience: College Degree (computer science and/or economics); at least 10 years of relevant project experience;

(5) **Finance & Admin. Dept. Manager:** Responsible for Admin. and Fin. Mgt. of the FMO and Project; responsible for preparing the relevant fin. mgt. progress reports;
Qualifications and Experience: College Degree (commerce and/or fin'al mgt.); at least 15 years of relevant project experience; familiar with procurement procedures;

(6) **The Community Development Assistant Component Specialist:** Responsible for the Project's community development assistance component, including technical guidance, overseas TA service providers.
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (preference for community devt.); at least 15 years of relevant project experience.

(7) **Regional Infrastructure Component Specialist:** Responsible for the Project's strategic regional infrastructure; leads and mentors other component staff;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (preference for civil engineering); at least 15 years of relevant project experience (including procurement)

(8) **Micro-Enterprise Development (MED) Component Specialist:** Responsible for the MED component; oversees the relevant service providers; leads and mentors other component staff;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree; at least 15 years of relevant project experience (banking experience is advantage);

(9) **Peace and Reconciliation Component Specialist:** Responsible for the Project's Peace and Development component; leads and mentors other components staff;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree; at least 15 years of relevant peace and reconciliation experience (including with NGOs) project experience (banking experience is advantage); leads and mentors other component staff;

(10) **Institutional Development Component Specialist:** Responsible for the Project's Institutional strengthening and governance component;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree; at least 15 years of relevant project institutional experience;

(11) **Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist:** Responsible for the Project's M&E subcomponent;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree; at least 10 years of relevant project experience;

(12) **Management Information System Specialist:** Responsible for the Project's MIS, including system design & implementation and managing service providers, as needed;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree; at least 10 years of relevant project MIS experience;

(13) **Information Dissemination Specialist:** Responsile for the Project's information dissemination strategies and activities;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree; at least 10 years of relevant project MIS experience;

(14) **Administration Manager:** Responsible for the Project's Administration and day-to-day logistical and administrative support including management of vehicles and travel logistics;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (public administration/HR); at least 10 years of relevant project administration experience;

(15) **Finance Manager:** Responsible for the Project's financial management, including project funding and cash-flow management;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (MBA and/or accounting/CPA), and at least 10 years of relevant project finance experience;

(16) **Staff Development Specialist:** Responsible for managing the Project's training activities for the FMO staff, and supporting the capacity building activities;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (HR field), and at least 10 years of relevant project training/HR experience;

(17) **Procurement Specialist:** Responsible for coordinating the Project's procurement activities, of goods, services, and civil works; community contracting experience is an advantage;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (engineering), and at least 10 years of relevant project procurement experience;

(18) **Cashier:** Responsible for handling cashier functions for the Project (including field offices);
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (accounting), and at least 5 years of relevant project cashiering experience;

(19) **Accountants (several):** Responsible for handling project accounting functions (including support to the area FMOs);
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (accounting), and at least 5 years of relevant project accounting experience;

(20) **Legal Specialist or Advisor:** Responsible for the Project's legal matters, including land donation and right of way (as relevant); 2 options; partime on retainer basis; or full-time;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant Law Degree, and at least 10 years of relevant project legal experience (with strong preference for familiarity in land administration);

STAFF FOR AREA OFFICES (IN COTABATO CITY AND ZAMBOANGA CITY (OR SULU);

(21) **FMO Area Program Managers (two):** Responsible for managing the project on an area-based approach, and in charge of small technical team;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (MBA or social science), and at least 15 years of relevant project management and implementation experience; strong preference for multi-sectoral experience;

(22) **Social Preparation Specialists (about 6-8):** Responsible for supporting the Project's community development assistance component;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (sociology/community dev't.,), and at least 5 years of relevant CDA experience; strong preference for multi-sectoral experience;

(23) **Appraisal Specialists (about 6-8):** Responsible for appraising the multi-sectoral subprojects, covering key specialties;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (covering various technical disciplines, such as engineering, HD, finance), at least 5 years of relevant project/subproject appraisal experience, preferably involving multi-sectoral experiences;

(24) **Supervision Specialists (about 6-8):** Responsible for supporting the project/subproject supervision requirements, while helping to ensure capacity building of the communities and ARMM govt.;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (covering various technical disciplines, such as engineering, HD, finance), at least 6 years of relevant project/subproject appraisal experience, preferably involving multi-sectoral experiences;

(25) **M&E Specialists (about 2):** To be responsible for the project's M&E activities;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (covering relevant disciplines, such as engineering, HD, finance), at least 5 years of relevant project/subproject M&E experience, preferably involving multi-sectoral subprojects;

(26) **MIS Specialists (about 2-4):** To provide the project's MIS requirements;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (covering relevant MIS disciplines), at least 5 years of relevant project/subproject MIS experience, preferably involving multi-sectoral subproject;

(27) **The Information Dissemination Specialists (about 2):** To provide the project's information dissemination requirements, for the 5 components, with focus at the community level;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (public relations), at least 5 years of relevant information specialist, preferably involving multi-sectoral subprojects;

(28) **Accountants (about 2-4):** To provide accounting support in the area FMO area offices;
Qualifications and Experience: Relevant College Degree (accounting), at least 5 years of relevant project accounting experience.

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Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP)

URGENT RECRUITMENT

A project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the establishment of the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP), is in search of qualified candidates for the following posts, to be based in Catbalogan, Samar :

Agronomist

Technical Accountabilities :

1. Assess existing agricultural practices and recommend ways of improvement to achieve sustainable production levels;
2. Prepare and undertake a program for improvement of farming practices, utilizing approaches which have been proven to work best among farmers;
3. Set-up demonstration home gardens and identify local farmer leaders who can help promote sustainable agricultural practices;
4. Undertake primary and secondary research to develop and identify available proven technology packages for sustainable intensification of farming practices; and
5. Develop technology information kits for easy reference of farmer participants.

Qualifications :

1. Bachelor's degree in Agriculture, with sufficient exposure in agronomy. Master's degree preferred.
2. Professional experience in the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices
3. At least five years of working field experience with grassroots communities
4. Excellent communication skills in English, Filipino and Waray dialect
5. Willing to travel extensively in Samar
6. Willing to stay in Samar for the duration of the assignment

Policy Development Specialist

Technical Accountabilities :

1. Develop protected area management guidelines to ensure internalisation of biodiversity conservation objectives into the sectoral and local development planning and implementation;
2. Coordinate with DENR in the adoption of these guidelines for application in the review of development plans, policies and projects;
3. Develop training modules and training program for sectoral agencies and local government units' (LGUs) planners and implementers in the use of tools for integrated conservation development planning and implementation; and
4. Monitor training results and impacts, and design and implement follow-up activities.

Qualifications :

1. At least a holder of a Master's degree in National Resources Management or related fields
2. Familiar with the development and application of protected area management tools and methods for the integrated conservation development planning
3. Professional and practical experience in protected area planning, both at the national and local level
4. Excellent training and communication skills
5. Willingness to stay in Samar for the duration of the assignment

Policy Development Assistant

Technical Accountabilities :

1. Assist the Project Development Specialist in developing protected area management guidelines to ensure internalisation of biodiversity conservation objectives into the sectoral and local development planning and implementation;
2. Coordinate with DENR in the adoption of these guidelines for application in the review of development plans, policies and projects;
3. Assist in conducting training programs for sectoral agencies and LGU planners and implementers in the use of the guidelines and other tools for internalisation; and
4. Monitor training results and impacts, and design and implement follow-up activities.

Qualifications :

1. Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management or related fields
2. Familiar with the development and application of protected area management tools and methods for integrated conservation development planning
3. Experience in protected area planning at the local level preferred
4. Training and communication skills required
5. Willingness to stay in Samar for the duration of the assignment

Sociologist

Technical Accountabilities :

1. Review, analyze and identify data gaps on the socio-economic information gathered during the Project Development Formulation – B and the Samar Island Biodiversity Study;
2. Develop a plan for further participatory socio-economic assessment and monitoring, identifying key social indicators to measure project output;
3. Formulate a framework for community outreach in the SINP following the description in the brief by the village conservation councils (VCCs), prioritising communities near the critical habitats and incorporating mechanisms for adaptation based on lessons learned during its implementation, including the provision of incentives for conservation work undertaken by buffer zone communities;
4. Review and finalize the terms of reference (TOR) for subcontracts on community outreach;
5. Coordinate the socio-economic assessment and social monitoring work;
6. Devise mechanisms for community participation in conservation planning and monitoring, enforcement and conflict resolution, policy formulation and advocacy;
7. Assist in the formulation and conduct of participatory conservation planning, training program, including conflict resolution skills / mechanism for PAMB, local community representatives and other project partners;
8. Facilitate the conduct of community consultation on the preparation of land use plans, zoning guidelines, policies for community-based conservation, as well as accompanying regulations, allowable activities, penalties and management incentives;
9. Maintain and update database on non-government organization (NGO) / people's organization (PO) active in the area and other socio-economic data;
10. Assist in the conduct of mid-term assessment, preparation of five-year management plan and terminal evaluation, providing inputs on the results of the socio-economic impact and findings of monitoring activities; and
11. Monitor performance of community outreach sub-contracts.

Qualifications :

1. At least a holder of a Master's degree or advanced degree in Sociology and other related fields
2. Professional and practical experience working in various aspects of integrated conservation and development programs and initiatives, both at the national and local levels
3. Excellent training and communication skills in English, Filipino and Waray
4. Excellent facilitation skills and known practitioner of participatory approaches
5. Willingness to travel extensively
6. Willingness to stay in Samar for the duration of the assignment

All application letters and comprehensive resumés should reach our office on or before 14 June 2002. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), Tel. Nos. 892-0611 to 25 loc. 275 / 237.

COLGATE-PALMOLIVE PHILIPPINES, INC.

The manufacturer of leading consumer goods brands such as Colgate, Palmolive, Gard, Tender Care and Axion seeks dynamic business partners as

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4. Based in areas being applied for

Interested parties may send their letter of intent together with the following:

1. Company and management team profiles
2. Financial documents
3. Distributor experience

Please address all communications to:

Distributor Business Development
Colgate-Palmolive Phils., Inc.
1049 J.P. Rizal Street, Makati City

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- With basic knowledge on soilless culture of different vegetable crops;
- Very knowledgeable about plant nutrition;
- Can communicate effectively to clients;
- Excellent interpersonal and leadership skills;
- Male or Female; and
- At least 30 years old

The successful applicant will be based in Metro Manila and will cover the Luzon area market.

The company offers above industry salary package and excellent company benefits.

Interested applicants can send their application letters and resumé by mail or fax to:

The Human Resource Manager
c/o ICD Corporation
9638 Pililla St., Makati City
Fax No. 02-8975263

Only short-listed applicants will be notified for interview.

CASCADE

Department of Agriculture
CARABALLO & SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A PROGRAMME FOR SELF-RELIANCE
Bayombong 3700, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax (078) 321-3611; Tel (078) 321-4128 or 321-2605
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

GININTUANG MASAGANANG ANI
Go Modern Agriculture

INVITATION TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTEREST
FOR
Local Technical Assistance/Specialist for HEALTH and/or NUTRITION to provide technical assistance in the Implementation of Health and Nutrition Programmes. The consultant will undertake:

- ✓ Review recommended strategies, provide regular technical supervision and assist CASCADE in the implementation of Health and Nutrition Programme.
- ✓ Prepare modified training modules on basic and upgrading courses of Nutrition Programme.
- ✓ Provide direct assistance to the Provincial Offices in the implementation of nutrition related activities in collaboration with the Provincial Nutrition Action Office and the Municipal Nutrition Action Offices.

Minimum requirement for the position:

1. Five (5) years relevant experience in the delivery of Health and or Nutrition programmes.
2. Extensive experience in conceptualisation and implementation of Health and Nutrition in an upland environment.
3. Previous relevant experience in a Local Government Unit environment is a plus.

Letter of Intent may be for Health or Nutrition or both. Deadline of Submission of Letter of Intent with full CV is 15 July 2002 and must be addressed to:

THE PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS
DA-CASCADE
Bonfal West, 3700 Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
Tel. (078) 321-4128 or 321-2605
Fax (078) 321-3611

** Only qualified candidates will be entertained and responded to.*

CASCADE is a special project of the Department of Agriculture jointly funded by the Government of the Philippines and the European Union

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Small and dynamic law office looking for:

LAWYERS

Qualifications:

☑ Male or female
☑ Proficient in written and oral communication
☑ Eager to really practice law

Send application, detailed resumé and transcript of records to:

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We Urgently Need Highly-Skilled Individuals for the following positions:

WEB/GRAPHIC DESIGNER

- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent experience in fine arts, advertising, visual communication or graphic design
- 1 to 2 years of working experience as a graphic designer or web designer
- Proficient in Adobe Photoshop, CorelDraw, Macromedia Flash, and HTML
- Must be flexible, self-motivated, a team player and very creative

Due to the urgency, please e-mail your resumé to hason@mydestiny.net, or apply in person (bring 2x2 photo, resumé and sample works done) at address: Unit 1203 Global Tower Building, Gen. Mascardo Street corner Capt. M. Reyes Streets, Bangkal, Makati City.

Wanted Immediately

SALES/MARKETING ASSISTANT

✓ Attractive female personnel with good communication skills and pleasing personality.

Apply in person:

ISPI
Room 306 RS Building
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We are a growing Company in Fashion Design and we are in need of:

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Send your comprehensive resumé and Transcript of Records

SALES DEMO - Female, 18-22 years old

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- pls. bring necessary documents (resume, diploma, transcript, etc...)

Address : 3/F HATCHASIA BLDG. FORT BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY (Yellow Bldg. near S&R and Jollibee, near Kalayaan flyover Edsa)
For Inquiries: TEL.
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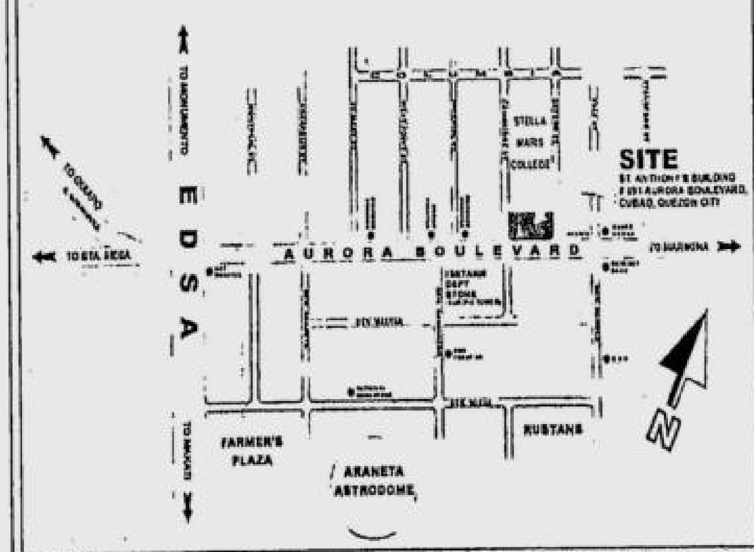
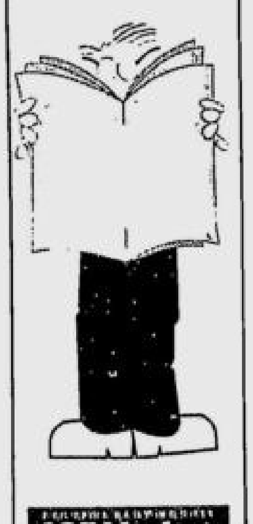


The best companies need the best people.



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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND in Manila will transfer its offices effective 03 June 2002 to the following address:

**24th Floor, Equitable Bank Tower
8751 Paseo de Roxas
PO Box 2068, MCPO
1226 Makati City**

Contact Numbers:	Telephone	Fax
General Matters	757 9000	757 3718
Visa Section	757 9001	757 3717
E-mail Address:	vertretung@man.rep.admin.ch	

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that on November 29, 2001 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon a meeting of the stockholders of NEW ASIA'S COMPUTER WORLD VENTURES, INC. will be held at its principal office in G-6 Molave Lane, 2nd Floor Virramall Shopping Center, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila to consider the proposal dissolution of the corporation, and such other matter as may legally be brought to the attention of the stockholders.

PO CHOI KONG
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--June 2, 9 & 16, 2002)

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that on April 4, 2001 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon a meeting of the stockholders of CITY GARDEN SEAFOOD RESTAURANT will be held at its principal office in St. Francis Square, J. Vargas Ave., Mandaluyong City to consider the proposal dissolution of the corporation, and such other matter as may legally be brought to the attention of the stockholders.

(PDI--June 2, 9 & 16, 2002)

We accept Classified advertisements

Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Visayas

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER *bay! Sayon na sulit pa!*

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Ms. Elizabeth Verdeflor
Bubbles N' Swirls
Terra Building, La Salle Avenue
Bacolod City
Telefax No. (034) 433-3628
Cell No. (0917) 985-2691
Cebu
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City
Tel No. (032) 232-7618
Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine &
General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-5796/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 255-1182
Iloilo
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018
Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 336-9932
Cell. No. (0917) 401-9180

Kalibo
Dra. Beasa Candelario
Candelario Enterprise
RB Newspapers, Magazine &
Song Hits Distribution Agency
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. Nos. (036) 262-4155/268-5200
Roxas City
Ms. Marieta Santos
M. Santos Komiks Magazines &
Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building
Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
Tel. Nos. (036) 621-5586/522-6925
Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053) 325-6743/321-2954
Tagbilaran City
Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
G. Penaflor Street
Tagbilaran City
Tel. No. (038) 411-5007

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements

Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Mindanao

Ake ya tu na INQUIRER. *Sirca ya, sulit pa!*

Butuan City
Mr. Rolando Busa
R.C. Busa Trading
400 G. Flores Avenue
Butuan City
Tel. Nos. (085) 225-3247
(085) 225-3169/341-5082
Cagayan de Oro City
OMNI General Merchandise
Dr. J. De Leon Building
Pabayo-Pacana Streets
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (08822) 722-530
(088) 856-5253
Grandstar News & Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax No. (088) 231-3248
E-mail grandstar@hotmail.com
Cotabato
Marquez News & Magazine Agency
Marquez Building, 51 Sinsuat Avenue
Cotabato City
Tel. Nos. (064) 421-3264/421-8611/
(064) 229-7089 (Lotlot - Secretary)
Davao City
Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Santos Building, Gov. Duterte Street
Davao City (fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel. Nos. (082) 226-4400/221-3379/
221-3424/226-2931

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920
General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-8731/301-6244
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel. Nos. (062) 215-1448/214-2641
Cell. No. (0919) 660-0001
Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marlen's Variety Store
86-88 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-4294/991-0973
Mr. Ruben Bautista
c/o Norie Bautista
Christian Vincent Newsstand
P. Briantes Street corner Campaner Street
Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-2965/990-4016

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

National Power Corporation

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD 2002-16

E-Bidding Date : June 17, 2002 - 2:00 P.M. (E-bidding Room)
Pre-Bid Conference : June 13, 2002 - 2:00 P.M. (Sampaguita Room)

LEASE/SERVICES OF THIRTY-THREE (33) UNITS PLAIN PAPER COPYING MACHINES

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the E-bidding Room, Bldg. I, Ground Floor, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms/documents are available on **June 3-5, 2002** at the Accreditation, Bidding and IT Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Building 2 upon payment of P500.00 which is non-refundable and submission of company's TIN. Last day of submission of application for eligibility forms/documents is on **June 7, 2002.**

Issuance of eligibility forms/documents **mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 A.M.** For inquiries please call No. 921-25-74.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

**PBAC-LEASE/SERVICES OF PLAIN
PAPER COPYING MACHINES
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City**

(PDI -- June 2, 2002)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE

**Armed Forces & Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc.
(AFPSLAI)**

AFPSLAI intends to engage the services of a Solution Provider for the design, development and implementation of a computerized Integrated Mission Critical Systems to support its core business processes: Member Services, Loans Management (to include Billing and Collection) and Accounts Management (to include Tellering) and interfaced with a General Ledger System.

Any interested Solution Provider shall submit a letter of intent together with details of the company, its products and services, capabilities and related experiences, and properly captioned as "Letter of Intent and Prequalification Documents for Consulting Services for AFPSLAI's Integrated Mission Critical Systems and General Ledger System," to the following address indicated below not later than **June 10, 2002.**

**Chairman
MIS Steering Committee
Armed Forces & Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc.
EDSA corner Col Bonny Serrano Road
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**

Any additional information may be obtained at the above address with Telephone Nos. 912-0004; Fax No. 912-0517 or visit www.afpslai.com.ph.

(PDI - June 2 & 3, 2002)

PHILAM LIFE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **Mr. Alicia G. Cacha** whose picture and address appear below has ceased to represent The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company or PHILAMLIFE in any capacity whatsoever in view of the termination of her agency contract effective April 30, 2002.

MS. ALICIA G. CACHA
762 P. Burgos Avenue, San Roque, Cavite City

Any transaction made or entered into by this person for and on behalf of PHILAMLIFE after April 30, 2002 is not valid and will not be honored by us.

(PDI--June 2, 2002)

Hurry-up and Avail of the Business Migration Opportunity of a lifetime for you and your Family!

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3. Lifestyle planning
4. Migration referral
5. Other Advice and Referrals

Please fax expressions of interest complete with resumé and evidence of good character to:

Ph: +61(418) 972-586
Fax: +61(2) 9489-9869
All applications are confidential

*Existing laws and conditions govern.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Bldg. No. 3, San Lazaro Comp.,
Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. Nos. TL 743-8301 Local 1107, 1125
DL (632) 711-9502

SENTRONG SIGLA
Health engine

May 30, 2002

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Various Hospital Equipment
IFB No. 2002-7-2(3)

The Department of Health (DOH) hereby invites sealed written bids for the procurement of various hospital equipment for the use of DOH Hospitals and other Local Government Hospitals, with an approved budget of Three Million One Hundred Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 3,112,500), chargeable against the National Center for Health Facility Development funds.

Only responsible bidders and duly accredited suppliers/manufactures/distributors as certified by the DOH Supplier Accreditation Committee for Medical/Hospital Equipment are qualified to participate.

Interested eligible bidders may see the list of hospital equipment for bid, the specifications and quantity, and obtain other information from **Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), Bldg. No. 26, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Tel. No. (632) 743-8301 loc. 3626 & 3627.**

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by interested bidders at **PLS from June 5 to June 28, 2002** upon payment of non-refundable **fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000)** only and upon submission of authenticated DOH Supplier's Accreditation Certificate.

A Pre-bidding Conference will be held at the **Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) Conference Room, Bldg. No. 3, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta Cruz, Manila at 2:00 p.m. on June 18, 2002.**

Bids must be submitted to the **COBAC Conference Room at 2:00 p.m. on July 2, 2002.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in an amount equivalent to 2.5% of total amount of bids in the form of certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed by a reputable local bank, or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable commerical bank.

DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the DOH.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH, CESO II**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - June 2 & 9, 2002)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY
7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, City of Makati, Metro Manila
Telephone Numbers: 817-4711 • 817-4712 • 817-4713 • 817-5017 • 817-5018 • 817-5014 • 813-1441/48
Fax (632) 815-2662 • 815-2660 • 817-3127
Zip Code 1226

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Public Estates Authority (PEA)** invites interested suppliers and manufacturers who have completed similar projects within the last two (2) years, to submit their application for eligibility and simultaneously to bid for the four (4) packages listed below:

Name of Project: PROCUREMENT OF FURNITURE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE SANDIGANBAYAN

			Approved Budget
Package 1:	Chairs	P	6,874,840.00
Package 2:	Tables and Wooden Cabinets	P	7,005,225.00
Package 3:	Sofa and Sala Set	P	2,141,500.00
Package 4:	Steel Cabinet	P	4,159,000.00
	Total	P	20,180,565.00

Source of Funds = PEA Budget

The Scope of Works covers supply, delivery, fabrication, installation and other services necessary to complete the Project.

Eligibility Forms, Bid Forms, Drawings as well as other information are available at the Office of Public Estates Authority at 7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, 107 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Tel. No. 817-4711 local 182, starting June 3, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. of June 13, 2002, upon the payment of non-refundable fee of P700.00 per set at the Cashier's Office of Public Estates Authority

For purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on June 17, 2002, 2:00 p.m. at Lobby, 7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, 107 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

Sealed bids shall be received and opened by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at the above address on the following dates and time:

	Date of Submission	Time	
		Deadline of Submission	Opening of Bids
Package 1	June 24, 2002	12:00 NN	1:00 PM
Package 2	June 26, 2002	12:00 NN	1:00 PM
Package 3	June 28, 2002	12:00 NN	1:00 PM
Package 4	July 2, 2002	12:00 NN	1:00 PM

PEA reserves its right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or award to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) JAIME R. MILLAN
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI -- July 1 & 2, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OWWA Center, 7th St., Cor.
F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City
P.O. Box 1617 Manila, Philippines
Zip Code: 1300
Telex. 27794 OWWA - PH
Tels. 891-7601 to 24
Fax. 833-0187

Overseas
Workers
Welfare
Administration

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) invites prospective bidders to bid for the supply and delivery of Computers, Printers and Accessories. (Branded only)

ITEMS		SPECIFICATIONS
2	sets	SERVER, CISC at least 2 processor, at least Pentium III - 1GHz
1	unit	Switch Hub (16 port)
1	unit	Hub (12/16 port)
1	unit	Visual Studio 6.0 or latest version
20	units	PRINTER, 24 pin Dot Matrix
18	units	WORKSTATIONS, at least 1GHz processor
22	units	UPS, at least 4 x 220 volts, minimum of .6KVA
10	rls.	UTP Cable CAT 5
500	pcs.	RJ 45

For prequalification purposes, interested suppliers are required to submit to the Chairman, PBAC thru the Property Management and General Services Division Room 301, 3rd Floor, OWWA Center Building corner F.B. Harrison Street, Pasay City not later than **June 11, 2002** photocopies of the following documents (original to be presented for authentication purposes):

1. Articles of Incorporation issued by SEC.
2. Business Registration issued by DTI.
3. Valid Municipal License.
4. Income Tax Return (ITR) for the past 2-years.
5. Audited Financial Statements for the past 2-years.
6. Value Added Tax registration.
7. List of clients for the past 3-years.
8. Company profile.

Only those pre-qualified will be invited to attend the pre-bid conference and the bidding which will be advised later.

The two (2) envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The OWWA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects of informality in such bids, and to accept those as may be considered most advantageous to the Administration. OWWA assumes no obligation for whatever loses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bids.

For more information please see or call the Property Management and General Services Division, 3/F Rm. 301, OWWA Center Building at phone numbers 891-7601 to 24 local 5304 and 833-0113.

(Sgd.) MARIANITO D. ROQUE
Chairman
Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 1, 2 & 3, 2002)

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Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
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☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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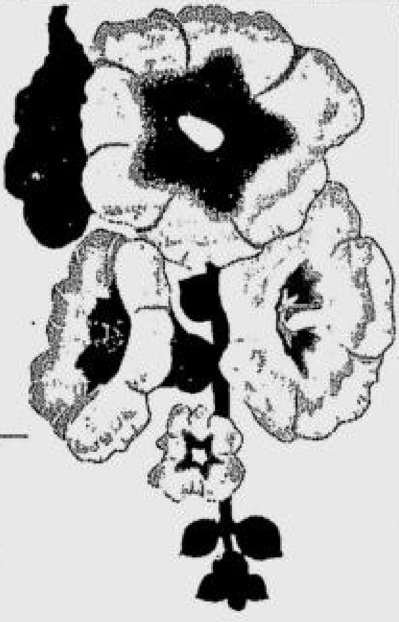

We, the family of the late

RUFINA ABELLANA KING

who peacefully joined her Creator on May 24, 2002

Wish to convey our deepest gratitude and
heartfelt appreciation to all our relatives and friends
who condoled with us in our bereavement: .

For the hand you extended
For the help you gave
For the flowers you sent
For your words of comfort
For your faithful prayers
and consoling presence.

Perhaps you were not there, but somehow you made us feel you remembered and cared with a prayer. May you continue to remember her in your prayers and masses.

Your kindness and thoughtfulness during our moment of sorrow shall always be remembered.

"My soul finds rest to GOD alone; from Him comes my salvation."
Psalms 62:2

Our Dearly Beloved Tatay

Col. SALVADOR L. SEÑERES (ret.)

1911 - 2002

Now peacefully rest in the infinite Grace
of Goodness of the Lord on the 31st of May 2002
at the age of 91.

His loving wife **Patrocinio**; children and children-in-law **Girlie, Lydia, Alice, Nap** and **Mercy, Doy** and **Evie, Ana** and **Popo**; grandchildren **Patricia, Stephanie, Ana Margarita, Ana Mercedita, Francesca, Beatrize** and **John**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 4, 2002 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

RAPHAEL R. OCAMPO

June 3, 1969 - May 30, 2002
La Salle Greenhills, HS Batch 1987

Left behind are his bereaved family: parents **Rodolfo & Estelita**, beloved companion **Sarah**; brothers and sisters **Jay, Mon** and **AC, Weng, Ina**; children **Mica, Rein** and **Raffy**.

His remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus De Liguori Mortuary Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 4, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City, after the 2:00 PM Mass.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE.

Erlinda C. Fernandez

Died in the Grace of our Lord in New York, U.S.A. on May 23, 2002 at the age of 68.

She is survived by her children, Eileen & Rod; Frank & Misty; Evelyn & Oscar; Vangie & Nermahl; Ferdie & Baby; Ricky & Jing; grandchildren & great grandchildren, brother & sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes at Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 4, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat at 9:00 a.m.

INOCENCIO PADERO ALEJANDRO

First Appointed Vice Mayor of Alicia, Isabela
Founder of Maria Alejandro Scholarship Foundation, Inc.
First Dealer of Alicia Shell Station

April 22, 1910 - May 19, 2002

Survived by his loving children and in-laws, brother, sister, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends sincerely thank everyone for their prayers and condolences.

Thank you!

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any Identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

Elvira Manaloto Lagrosa, MD, CPH, MPH

Born July 13, 1935

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on May 31, 2002 at the age of 66.

Former City Health Officer, Pasay City

Beloved wife of **Jose**; loving mother of
Cecile and **Albert**; **Cynthia** and **Manny**;
Carmela and **Jeff** and **Carmina**;
doting grandmother of **Mica, Mariel** and **Miguel**;
loving sister of **Fe** married to **Arding Cuneta**;
loving aunt to **Loida, Rico** and **Betsy**;
grandaunt to **Dindi, Eunina** and **Zachy**;
devoted daughter of former Pasay City Mayor
Enrique Manaloto (†) and **Cecilia Sauler** (†).

Her remains lie in state at the Don Bosco
Chapels, A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

Like The Wind I Go

LIESEL COMMANS QUIRINO

Peacefully joined our Creator on
June 1, 2002 at the age of 71.

Loving wife of **Carlos Quirino** (†), Mother of **Cynthia (Denden), Carlos, Jr.** and **Maggie, Richie** and **Cherry**, Grandmother of **Miri & Tony Abello, Cachito Villa-Abrille, Chum, Tino, Nicky** and **Kaila, J.J.** and **Eric Quirino**; Sister to **Hella Hindriks** and **Frankie Commans**, and all relatives and friends request for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Funeral Mass will be on Monday, June 3, 2002 at the
St. James Cathedral, Lower Chapel Cuenca St.,
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa at 5 pm.

Our Dearly Beloved Mom

Carmen Ledesma Recto

Peacefully joined her Creator on June 1, 2002
at the age of 76.

*Her late husband **Ramon** (†); loving children and in-laws **Teresita** and **Boy**, **Tinggoy** and **Carina**, **Eddieboy** and **Detchie**, **Noli** and **Bing**, **Martin** and **Vivian**; grandchildren **Trixie**, **Bernice**, **Vinnie** and **Arco**.*

Her remains lie in state at the Chapel of Assumption Convent, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City, Metro Manila. Schedule will be announced later.

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Notice is hereby given to the Public that Ms. JO-ANN G. POLICARPIO a.k.a. "AJ", whose picture appears above is no longer connected with Club Panoly Resorts, Inc., and International Vacations Corp., effective March 01, 2002.

Any transaction entered into and certification issued by this person on behalf of Club Panoly Resorts, Inc., and/or International Vacations Corp. after the said date shall not be honored by the company.

(PDI--June 2, 2002)

Department of Health
announces

Qualifying Examination for Residency Training (QUERT)

for all **Physicians**
as part of the Admission Procedure for
Residency Training in DOH T/T Hospitals

July 7, 2002

Manila, Baguio, Legaspi, Cebu
Iloilo, Zamboanga and Davao
cities

Application Period:
June 3 - 28, 2002
In all HRD Units of
Centers for Health Development

Health Human Resource Development Bureau
Hospital HRD Unit

Tel: 781-1723
743-8301 local 4202
Telefax: 781-1721

Web Page: www.doh.gov.ph/quert

Don't miss this national event!!!

NOTICE TO BUYERS OF PROPERTIES IN MULTINATIONAL VILLAGE

This is to inform the buying public that a certain **MS. MARIE-LYN TANCHANGCO** is not connected in any way with **CIRCA 2000 HOMES, INC. (CIRCA).**

Any transaction entered into by said **MARIE-LYN TANCHANGCO**, with any buyer in connection with the sale of CIRCA's real estate properties located at MULTINATIONAL VILLAGE, PARAÑAQUE CITY, is unauthorized and will not be honored by CIRCA.

CIRCA 2000 HOMES, INC.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

QUEENIE ARCACHE MELVIN

We'll never forget your face, the sound of your voice,
the gentleness of your touch... they let us know we were loved.

We'll never forget the stories you told, the traditions you handed down...
they let us know who we are.

We'll never forget the lessons you taught, the things you stood for...
they are your gift and your legacy.

We'll never forget, and we'll always honor you every day
in how we live and who we are.

Our beloved Mom, we celebrate your life by honoring your birth on May 28 and remembering your passing on June 2, 1999. The love you gave us is instilled deep within our hearts and we miss you more and more each day...

We love you so much, Mom
Your loving children

Holy Mass will be offered today at Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park at 10:00 a.m.

Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of our dearly beloved

VICTOR JOSE HENSON DIZON

who was called home by our Heavenly Father
on May 6, 2002

convey sincerely our deep and heartfelt gratitude to all those who, with great love and generosity, offered Holy Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and condolences, visited and kept vigil with us, attended the funeral rites, and who in countless and immeasurable ways condoled with and comforted us, gave spiritual and emotional support, in our time of bereavement.

CONSUELO ECLAVEA LIM VDA. DE MORATÓ

(Born May 25, 1910)

Widow of **Tomas B. Morató**, First Mayor of Quezon City, and First Congressman of Quezon Province, 2nd District, in the First Congress of the Republic.

*Our beloved mother **Consuelo**, peacefully joined her Creator last Friday morning at 8:20 a.m., May 31, 2002 at the age of 92.*

Her remains lie in state at the Doña Consuelo Building, 192 Tomas B. Morató Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila.

Her loving children **Manuel**, **Elvira**, **Teresita**, **Lolita**, **Francisco** and **Jose Tomas**, together with daughters-in-law **Maria Rosario Roces Morató**, **Ana Linares Morató** (†) and sons-in-law **Antonio N. Lazatin**, **Juan Cuenca Pastor**, **Martin Quiros Palau**, together with the families of our late half brothers **Arturo**, **Tomas**, **Eduardo** and half sister **Josefina Morató Hidalgo**, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

She will be laid to rest at the North Cemetery, June 6, 2002, Thursday, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Mount Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City to be officiated by Rev. Fr. James Reuter, S.J.

"Our Lord God has you in His Keeping, we have you in our hearts."

For God
so loved
the world,
that He
gave His
only
begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes
in Him
shall not
perish but
have
everlasting
life.

John 3:16

MESSAGE OF THANKS

The family of the late
Retired Ambassador

ROMEO O. FERNANDEZ

who passed away May 6, 2002

Thanks all who expressed their sympathy and supported them during their bereavement.

The family appreciates the prayers and masses offered for the repose of Romy's soul.

Thank you very much for all your help and may God bless you all.

DR. MAE CAROLYN C. GUTIERREZ - FUNG

St. Luke's Medical Center

Has peacefully joined her Creator on May 25, 2002 at the age of 43
in Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Her loving husband **RICARDO B. FUNG**;
father **JUSTICE HUGO E. GUTIERREZ**; mother **ESPY**; brother **DANNY**;
sister-in-law **PENNY**; niece **MEG**; stepchildren **JULIE**, **GRACE**, **CHRISTIAN** and **PAUL**;
relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

On June 3, 2002, her ashes will be brought to St. Luke the Physician Chapel,
St. Luke's Medical Center, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

A Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2002, at 7:00 PM.

She will be laid to rest on Wednesday, June 5, 2002.

** PLEASE OMIT FLOWERS. Instead, donations to your favorite charity will be appreciated.*

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RESIDENTIAL

MAKATI

1 Res'l Condo - 3 BR, 3TB, maids rm w/ TB/Suite 7-B (8th & 9th/f) Polaris 40 Condominium, Polaris cor. Canceras St, Bel-Air / FA 235
Min Bid - P8,840,000

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FAIRWAY LOTS

2 L17 Blk 10 / LA 1,034
Min Bid - P3,930,000
3 L52 Blk 17 / LA 1,130
Min Bid - P4,294,000
4 L33 Blk 30 / LA 715
Min Bid - P2,717,000
5 L93 Blk 48 / LA 783
Min Bid - P2,976,000
6 L53 Blk 50 / LA 1,027
Min Bid - P3,903,000

NON FAIRWAY LOTS

7 L14 Blk 16 / LA 828
Min Bid - P2,484,000
8 L53 Blk 17 / LA 811
Min Bid - P2,433,000
9 L3 Blk 43 / LA 855
Min Bid - P2,565,000
10 L6 Blk 45 / LA 1,085
Min Bid - P3,255,000
11 L60 Blk 50 / LA 513
Min Bid - P1,539,000

VALENZUELA

7 T'houses Kabesang Imo cor Pili Sts, Deato Subd.
12 Lot 1254B1A LA 40.49
Min Bid - P521,000
13 Lot 1254B1B LA 36.43
Min Bid - P469,000
14 Lot 1254B1C LA 51.72
Min Bid - P666,000
15 Lot 1254B1D- LA 43.44
Min Bid - P448,000
16 Lot 1254B1E LA 43.44
Min Bid - P448,000
17 Lot 1254B1F LA 43.35
Min Bid - P447,000
18 Lot 1254B1G LA 43.13
Min Bid - P444,000
19 Res'l Bldg. 16-door,2-sty(GF-100% fnshd/L23-A 4 N. Urutia St., Palasan. / LA 670 FA 694
Min Bid - P4,410,000
20 Res. H & L / Chanty St., Fortune Vill2 / LA 150 FA163.5
Min Bid - P1,805,000

PASIG

21 Res'l Bldg 2-sty / Yakal St F.Agapito Subd / LA 245
Min Bid - P2,625,000

MANDALUYONG

22 Res'l Condo -Unit 1003-A 10/F, Tower A, WackWack Road / FA 84 PS 13.75
Min Bid - P3,850,000

CAVITE

23 Vacant Lot/L16 B1 Manila South woods Res'l Estates, P1, Brgy. Cabilang Baybay / LA 1,224
Min Bid - P7,370,000
24 Res'l T'house- 1-sty B 49 L112, City Homes Resortville R-5 Brgy. Langkaan,Dasmarinas LA 35 FA 22
Min Bid - P155,000

Sta. Maria, Bulacan Sunrays Village

25 Res Lot-L1 B3 / LA 154
Min Bid - P220,000
26 Res. Lot-L8 B1 / LA 84
Min Bid - P120,000
27 Res. Lot-L19 B1 / LA 80
Min Bid - P115,000
28 Res. Lot-L20 B1 / LA 80
Min Bid - P115,000
29 Res. Lot-L21 B1 / LA 79
Min Bid - P 112,000
30 Res. Lot-L22 B1 / LA 78
Min Bid - P110,000
31 Res. Lot-L23 B1 / LA 74
Min Bid - P104,000
32 Res. Lot-L24 B1 / LA 75
Min Bid - P105,000
33 Res. Lot-L30 B1 / LA 70
Min Bid - P98,000
34 Res. Lot-L31 B1 / LA 70
Min Bid - P98,000

BULACAN

35 Res. H&L/ 1 sty w/ 2BR, 2TB / No. 31 Maria St., Ysmael Village, Barrio Sta. Rosa I , Marilao LA 240 FA 141
36 *Min Bid - P936,000*
Res. Apartment- 5 door # 725 Sitio Matang Tubig, Lote, Barrio Guyong, Sta. Maria LA 150 FA 150
Min Bid - P755,000
37 H & L 219 Cristina St., Guinhawa Subd., Malolos. LA 466 FA 138
Min Bid - P865,000

CAINTA

38 H&L - split level,4BR, 1TB / L16-B B14, Board Walk Drive, Parkplace Subd. LA 150 FA 207
Min Bid - P2,047,000

QUEZON CITY

39 T'house / Unit A-2, 5BR, 5TB w/attic & gar, Baler Luxury T'house/LA 163 FA 244
Min Bid - P4,900,000
40 T'house/Unit A-7, 4BR, 6TB w/ attic & gar, Baler Luxury T'house, Baler St. LA 106 FA 179
Min Bid - P3,300,000
41 T'house/Unit A-8, 4BR, 4TB w/ attic & gar, Baler Luxury T'house, Baler St. LA 129 FA 258
Min Bid - P4,800,000
42 T'house/2-sty, 2BR/L3 Along Rd. L3 Capitol Estate II, Commonwealth LA 83.5 FA 162.8
Min Bid - P2,460,000
43 Res'l T'house/3-sty, 3BR, 4TB w/ gar & terrace / Unit 65D Whole Asia T'house, Mapang-akit, St., Brgy. Pinyahan LA 61 FA 139
Min Bid - P3,151,000
44 Res. H & L/2-sty w/ 3BR, 2TB, gar & attic / L3 B5, Waling-waling St., Nomar II Subd. LA 240 FA 224.05
Min Bid - P1,535,000

NEAR BLUE RIDGE, Q.C.

45 Res. H&L-1-sty w/ 3BR, 4TB & gar /117 Aquarius St., Cinco Hermanos / LA 700 FA 405
Min Bid - P8,500,000

ANTIPOLO

46 Res'l Lot - L6 B4 Mission Hills Blvd. Sta Barbara 1 Mission Hills Subd / LA 1,062
Min Bid - P2,900,000
47 Res Lot - L17 B1 Beverly St., Sta. Barbara 1, Luxury Estate Mission Hills Subd/LA 1,021
Min Bid - P2,750,000
48 Res'l Lot / L79 B38, Forest Hills Subd. / LA 523
Min Bid - P1,340,000

LAGUNA

49 H & L - 1 sty, 2BR,3TB w/ pool & gar/ 860 Narra St. Miramonte Subd/ LA 618 FA 220.74
Min Bid - P3,175,000
50 Vacant Lot/L93,B7,Road Lot 13 Cafraya, Lumban / LA 886
Min Bid - P600,000

BATANGAS

51 Res. Lot / Barrio Sapac, Lipa / LA 10,718.76
Min Bid - P1,850,000

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI

52 Vacant Lot / 3904 Quingua St., Pinagkaisahan / LA 612
Min Bid - P13,800,000
53 Com'l Lot/Lot 1-B & Lot 2-B, Gil Puyat Avenue corner Marconi St. / TFA 472
Min Bid - P18,160,200

VALENZUELA

54 Ind' l / Res'l Lots (8 lots) Brgy. Maysan TLA 15,997
Min Bid - P7,200,000
55 Ind'l / Res'l Lot / Brgy. Lingunan / LA 7,841
Min Bid - P 3,800,000
56 Com'l Bldg(2 bldgs)482 E Esteban cor. Lope de Guzman St. Dalandanan / LA500 FA168.92
Min Bid - P1,970,000
57 Com'l W'house / Templaza St., Don Pedro Village, Marulas / LA 2,540
Min Bid - P14,200,000

CABANATUAN CITY

58 Ind'l/Res Lots / Lots 2, 3-A & 3-B, Daang Sarile, Valdefuente/ TLA 70,559.2
Min Bid - P18,200,000
59 Com'l Bldg / 3-sty. Lots 1B&2B Maharlika Rd /LA 420 FA 470.4
Min Bid - P2,800,000

PASIG

60 Office Condo- w/ parking Unit 2004 OMM CITRA Condominium San Miguel Ave. /FA 153.64
Min Bid - P 7,500,000

QUEZON CITY

61 Ind'l / Res'l Lots(6 lots) Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches TLA 34,045
Min Bid - P68,800,000
62 Com. Lot w/ w'house/ 185 Roosevelt Ave /TLA 5,641
Min Bid - P 185,000,000
63 Com'l/Res'l Bldg. 4-sty unfnshd/394-A Sangandaan,Novaliches LA 218 FA 721
Min Bid - P 4,100,000

BULACAN

64 Ind'l Lots(9 lots) Brgy. Bahay Pare & Bagbaguin Meycauayan / LA 9,975
Min Bid - P15,000,000

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UnionBank may at any time withdraw any of the properties prior to auction date

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66 Com'l / Res'l Bldgs / Bldg 1 4sty, Bldg 2-3sty / 1931 & 1933 Rizal Ave., Sta Cruz LA 675 FA 2,457
Min Bid - P30,705,000
67 Com'l Space/ 2F KP Tower CM Recto cor. Juan Luna Sts. Binondo FA 658
Min Bid - P25,920,000
68 Com'l Lot w/ w'hse & office/ Interior Road, Alunan St., Pasay NLA 1,382 FA 772.3
Min Bid - P35,000,000
69 Dormitory 3sty/352 M. F. Jhocson St., Manila LA 489.3 TLA 1,620.5
Min Bid - P18,600,000

TAGUIG

70 Ind'l Lot / L2B1A1 Perfecto Dr. Sta. Maria Industrial Estate Bagumbayan/ LA 2,920
Min Bid - P12,210,000

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LOT

ALABANG

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ALABANG LOT 11T/sqm 9117143/09174233096 - Shie

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QUEZON CITY

CORINTHIAN
7226578/7240394/09178387820

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Ayala Res Lots New Phase 204-290m² @ P9,500-P12,160 Pay 20-30% Bal 5yrs Mo. Int. HSES & LOTS - 3BR 3TB 150-300FA 200-300LA @ P6M P13M 2yrs-10yrs w/ AyalaA1 Facilities

★ Ayala Grnfields ★
Calamba Mt Makiling 360° view 400-1800m² lots@ 8T/m² & up 30% down Bal. 5-7 yrs. Inst. w/ Facilities See to Appreciate 9319117 ★ 9319160 Banez

•NEW MANILA For Twnhouse• 995sqm 0917-5320224

•LA VISTA SUBD.• 1,200sqm near Clubhouse 09175320224

SAN JUAN

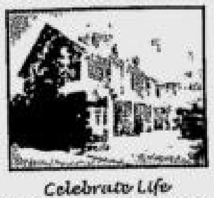
SJuan 223m²-500m² 7272373

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

JUBILEE VILLAS



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Create Happy Memories
3 bedrooms w/2 T&B, living, dining & kitchen area, attic, maid's room w/T&B, laundry area, 2-car garage
GFA 110 - 135 SQM.
INDIVIDUAL LOT TITLE
Underground utilities, cable TV provisions, swimming pool, secured compound.
PHASE 1 SOLD OUT
CONSTRUCTION ON-GOING FOR PHASES 2 - 3
RESERVE NOW
PRICES START AT 3.1 M
EASY PAYMENT TERMS
BANK FINANCING AVLBLE
VISIT US TODAY AND VIEW OUR MODEL UNIT
90 BANLAT ROAD, TANDANG SORA, QC
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ZITRO REAL ESTATE
Tels 8182781, 7515472
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www.jubileevillas.com
HLURB License #04012

LOT

PROVINCIAL

1414sqm P1000/sqm Abad Santos St. Brgy.Bagong Sikat PUERTO PRINCESA Mrs. Romero Tel. 535-3153

• Canyon Woods • w/Big Disc. No Int. 5 Yrs Tina 721-2804 / 638-6505 AM Only

Liliw Laguna 208m² 4553917

★METRO, BAGUIO★150m²up DP20Tup P4,020 ma 4198102

Open Hse
EXTENDED
North Bel Air-Bulacan
20% disc or P6,989/mo.
FEW LOTS ONLY
100% develop RDY Titles
FS DULALIA REALTY
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Silang 1st class facilities resd'l lot 550M² 09172482824

TAAL Bings 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P1.4M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

OTHER AREAS

321M² 4.5T Cal Lag 09174034518 Maricar 09173009510 Tommel

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 209m² P680T Vic 8903461L.27

VARIOUS AREAS

The Village
Rainbow's End
BAGUIO CITY
OPEN HOUSE
19 Hec. Vill 80 Lots only Helipads and Horse Stables Great Views and More 100% Dev't. Ample Water
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MAKATI

GREEN CASTLE REALTY INV
MAKATI / TOWNHOUSES
Sampaloc St. San Antonio Vill
Flr. Area 185.55 sqm
3BR / 3TB / 1 Garage P5.5M
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Only 9T++/mo.
2 own 2BR Condo nr Mkt & Mega Rdy 4 Occupancy! Come & visit Few Units Avble. Call 888-3333

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286sqm 3Pkg 3br P20M
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MANILA

1 Unit Apt. 2BR 60m² 7145514

MNLA ASTRL 2Bdrm Condo SF + Parking, Front PGH 5.5M • Tel 723-9317

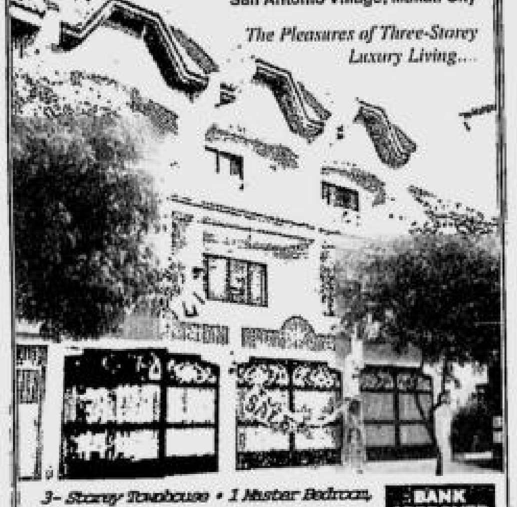
SN ANDRES MLA
NR SSHWAY Bnew Twnhse/4stry/4br/3tb/grgo/maid P2.745M up 8903461 loc 34

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

MAKATI

VALENCIA TOWER
TOWNHOUSES
Sampaloc Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City
The Pleasures of Three-Storey Luxury Living...



3- Storey Townhouse • 1 Master Bedroom, 2 bedrooms • 3 Toilet & Bathrooms
BANK APPROVED
FOR SALE
Lot Area: 65.81 sq.m; P 5.5M - P 6.5M
Floor Area: 185.55 sq.m.
GREEN CASTLE REALTY INVESTMENTS
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QUEZON CITY

FOR SALE
FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED
ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
1st Class COMML-OFFICE RES'L CONDO.
B-4 BUYING / INVESTING
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1. 1st CLASS AMENITIES
NAME IT... WE HAVE IT!!!
2. ACCESSIBILITY - *SCHOOLS (Ateneo, UP, Miriam, Katiska, PSBA, NCBA), BANKS, Other Bus. Establishments & TRANSPO to any part of M. Mla*
3. X'lent VIEW (360°) of the Metropolis w/ roof - top S. POOL & Garden
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BUY & TRANSFER NOW!
SEE... IS TO BELIEVE!!!
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PARANAQUE

•Southbay• 721sqm 8255393

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nr. S&R along EDSA
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FS DULALIA REALTY
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REGALIA TOWERS
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3BR 3TB 1 m² with Parking P4.5M 10% P. bal payable 36mos. without Interest Ready Occupancy Office 42672 (0916)3295800

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Rush Landsido 45.34sqm FFurnish P M09202201489

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

MAKATI

QUEZON CITY

UNION SQ ONE FA80m² P1.9M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

SAN JUAN

Addn Hills Condo 102m² 2br Mds Rm Prkng P3.2M 726-1222 • 0917-8998767

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HERITAGE 7120038/0270/0229

Loyola Marikina Memorial Lots 55T 7128707 RUSHI

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Resthse Btangas 3br w/S.P. 8723sqm P9M Neg. 776-4317

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Baras Farm 1.5H 635-0462

•BATAAN, Orion 5has@P20 300mangoes 250cocnuts etc no plants@P5-10/m² Call 824-6387

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

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2BRTB GRG nrB'dla 15T 8441669

YAGUE Spacious 895-5699

MANILA

3BR 2TB w/grge 8992148

3br 3tb Masangkay St. nr. Chinese School 2654335 Emer

MANDALUYONG

Nr Boni City Hall UP n DN 532-1382 • 532-8724 / 33

QUEZON CITY

Banahaw 3BR near MRT Stn Pvt Cpd Call Nancy 7009032

Duplex U/D 64 Diamond St. NrthView1Subd Batasan Hills T-921-1993 / 929-9858 Del

QC 3BR 2TB 10T 936-9282

HOUSE

ALABANG

AYALABANG 8502503 PERLA

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FACTORY/WHSE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FACTORY/WHSE

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- THREE PHASE ELECTRICITY BY MERALCO
- WITH DIRECT DUAL TELEPHONE LINE
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- BULACAN AGRO-INDUSTRIAL SUBD.,MALOLOS - CALUMPIT BOUNDARY

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3742584; 3723206
3719702 TO 04
410-8367 TO 69

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

FOR RENT
SAN LORENZO VILLAGE
HOUSE-SINGLE/ DETACHED
4 BEDRMS, 4T/B
1 DEN W/ PR
5 CAR GARAGE
FOR APPT. PLS. CALL
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02-8178299
0917-8172352
0917-8916267

MAKATI

Sta. Rosa Laguna San Jose Ayla Tech 3Bdrm 2TB Call Dong 0919-2064003

Vill de Guad. Bernardino Compd. 3Bdrm 3TB Mdsrm Call Dong 0919-2064003

MANILA

1521H Callejon Valencia Samp. 4BR nr University Belt 9117287;09178303756

PARANAQUE

3BR 2TB BUNGALOW 535-1346

BETTER LIVING Paranaque 45 Greece St. Tel#: 823-5743

QUEZON CITY

ST. IGNATIUS, 4th St. 25T 3BR 3TB 2multipurpose room grge 9117287 09178303756

SAN JUAN

2sty d'plex P10T 7008515

3BedRm Bungalow + Den P30T 671-5833 / 725-7790

PROVINCIAL

Mintcor Twnhse 3Bdrm 2TB 10K Call Dong 0919-2064003

CONDO/TWNHSE

Rockwell Bnew 2BR Amorsolo /Hidalgo Eastwood Bnew 1BR Semi-Furn Julius 628-1580 655-5689 • 0917-2011925

MAKATI

1BR Alfaro Makati 10T/mo •805-5921 867-4931•

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Oxford Suites, FF
Elegant w/Nice View
nr. Buendia & Mktl. Ave.
7594091•7522580•09178381928

•• Condo 4 Rent Makati ••
Res'l/Office 757-3123

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COM'L/RESD'L CONDO 4 RENT NR BUENDIA • 5 min 2 Makati brand new 1672 Dian St. Mktl. Call Rose 8439418/5369509

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PARANAQUE

2BR2TB w/ Tel BF Sucat near Aylabang nice Tel 5645203

PASAY

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FOR RENT
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CONDO/TWNHSE

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Brand New Res. Units for Lease
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PASIG

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QUEZON CITY

2 stry twnhse rooftop 2bedrms & water tank Villa Rebecca Tandang Sora Call Agnes 09165372766 Eday 4104283

Condo 2BR 1TB Prkg Nr Edsa SM North 8,450/mo 0916-4833454

CUBAO FUR 6T AIRCON 91-8TH AVE CUBAO. STUDIO TYPE 9132527/9121163

Garden Island 2BR / 2TB P20T 0917-8382848 • 7273383

VVerde 3BR 1.9M T9124323

RIZAL

INDAY SUBD ANTIPOLO 2 STRY 2TL 2BR AIRCON FUR 13T EACH 9132527/9121163

SAN JUAN

Valencia Hills 2-3BR 25T/Mo &Up nice Call: Vilma 0919-8378988

PROVINCIAL

Wright Park Baguio 6425663

FOR LEASE

2-Units 830m²@Muralla Ind. Park-nr Meycauayan Exit-fronting Coca-Cola Bottling Plant-Brokers Welcome 7270905 7271295

Comm'l Lot 4 Lease 149sqm Near Town Plaza & Church Call 640-9641 • 6400847

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PEZA ZONE 1000+ & 2000+m² w/Ofc Call May 6710815/5071

LIBIS WHSE 4 RENT
1200 & 800+m² w/ofc. Tel. Call May 671-0815/671-5071

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500m² 200m² High Ceiling 641-7673 • 747-2303

ROOM & BOARD

Lady Mkt 8950134/8907136

New Ladies Dorm Nr UST Class"A" 6810992/09202321454

Stud Type 5Tup 7838595Yupy

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•LADIES SHARE CONDO•
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Nr SM Sta Mesa 7163710

Resdn'l/Clean/Furnis/Male/ 2PerRm/SingleBd T897-3770

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

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MEMORIAL GARDEN
PASIG CITY
FREE P10,000
Wake Certificate from
ARLINGTON EAST
MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Upon purchase of lot at Evergreen
-NO MORE LONG PROCESSION-
WANTED
REALTORS, BROKERS & AGENTS
EARN BIG COMMISSION
CALL US @
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1 - STOREY BLDG.
w/ MEZZANINE
824 PASAY RD., MAKATI
LONG-TERM LEASE
8903969 (Ofc)
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2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

WANTED TO BUY

ATTN: PROPERTY OWNERS •For IMMEDIATE Occupancy• EXPATS looking for hses. in Forbes, Dasma, Urdaneta, and units in Rockwell, Essensa, Pacific Plaza Tower, 1 Roxas, etc. T-7594091 • 7500127 • 7592335

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ASN MNSN 1BR Std 2Lvl w prkg 25T 8114436/38/40

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GROUND FLOOR ORTIGAS CENTER KARINA BLDG.
FOR RENT 288.33SQM
IDEAL FOR BANKS / TRAVEL AND INSURANCE AGENCIES AND SHOWROOM
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MKTI ofc/clinic 8439418 Rose

WANTED TO LEASE

WANTED TO LEASE
Whses along Major roads of North South Luzon & Metro Mla 2000m² 1Ha
Call Bryant 893-1663

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CARS

BMW

95 BMW 525i White
Lito Tel#823-0981

FORD

Rush F150'99 8957552/09175292922

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99 HONDA CIVIC LXI AT 23T KM 440T 0918-9039146

HYUNDAI

99 Sirx AT P480T 0917-9166364

IsatanaP350 NGrace 9339002

MITSUBISHI

89 Lncr GLx 125Th neg Fresh In-Out 09198217322

'92 Lancer GTI T-2513014; 2529065; CP09179369873

96 SP'WAGON 1ST OWN P375TH IKE 8074874 • 0917-9717001

NISSAN

94 VANETTE 190T Lyza Rivera 0917-5308324

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'94 Corolla GLI M/T FLD P2351 • T#0917-5414945

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CARS

OTHER CAR BRANDS

'96 Dodge Ram Diesel T-2513014; 2529065; CP09179369873

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LOWEST PRICE AT STAKE
FEW ITEMS LEFT
CARS / VANS / 4X4 / PICK-UP
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Jaguar '76 XJ12 8079396

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Daily Weekly Monthly
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2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

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B. Equipment 0916-3597367

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YAMAHA PIANOS
Grand & Upright T7213124

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Ice Shaver Crusher Hamburger Gridle Griller Food Warmer Low High Presure Siopao Steamer Freezer Fryer Hood etc. T-9981170

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others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269687/4123543

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ITEM DESCRIPTION		*MINIMUM BID*
1. BOILER (2 UNITS)		**P 950,000.00** packaged
TYPE	FIRE TUBE	
BRAND	KEWANEE	
RATING	300 HP	
MAX. WORKING PRESSURE	200 and 150 PSIG	
OPERATIONAL WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES		
2. AIR COMPRESSOR w/ DRYERS (1 unit) w/ AIR DRYER		**P 500,000.00**
Make	Atlas Copco	
Model / type	ZT 55	
Max. working pressure	8.6 Bars	
Year Model	1995	
3. AIR COMPRESSOR (1 unit)		**P 8,000.00**
MFG	LEROI	
MAX. WORKING PRESSURE	125 LBS	
4. ELECTRICAL TRANSFORMER W/ COMPLETE ACCESSORIES (1 unit)		**P 2,575,000.00** packaged
Make	ABB-USA	
Phase	3	
KVA	1500	
High Voltage	34500	
Low Voltage	240Y/139	
Style	FNSIS 144 TBS	
SN#	96530288	
Year Manufactured	Jul-96	
5. CROSS FLOW FUME SCRUBBER-1 (1 unit) FOR ODOR / AIR CONTROL		**P 849,750.00**
Rated Capacity	6,000 CFM	
6. CENTRALIZED AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS W/ COMPLETE ACCESSORIES (1 UNIT)		**P 300,000.00** packaged
MAKE	YORK	

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR DISPOSAL:

- OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINES
- OLD OFFICE FURNITURE
- METAL SCRAP
- OTHER SCRAP
- VARIOUS SPARE PARTS

PLS. SEE TO APPRECIATE

*** All sales are in "AS-IS" condition ***

ALL PRICES ARE NEGOTIABLE

For more inquiries, please call 531-90-21 to 29 and look for
MS. MILLET SILVESTRE or MR. JUN BORJA

FOR SALE
LOCALLY PURCHASED
1994 HONDA CG 125cc MOTORCYCLE

Offers are invited for the above mentioned vehicle which may be viewed at the BRITISH EMBASSY by appointment with the Transport Officer at telephone number 816 7116.

Sealed bids (in Philippine Pesos) should be addressed to:

The Transport Officer
HONDA MOTORCYCLE
British Embassy
17th Floor, L.V. Locsin Building
6752 Ayala Avenue
1226 Makati

Please indicate complete contact details. Bids must be received by 1200 Tuesday 4th June 2002

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1. Keen to earn USD100,000.00 per annum?
2. Keen to join a new MLM company?
3. Keen to market the latest IT program?
4. Have USD168.00 to invest?

If you answer YES to all the above, please email your details to: vioffice@vioffice.net for an invitation to a special preview by the president of the company.

Note: This is not a get rich scheme!!!

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
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Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09178473744

MISCELLANEOUS

B/SELL EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

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First Class PASTRIES Maker (Male) Urgent 843-2596

Sales Rep for Vismin w/ experience as Salesmen for Vismin area Call: Ms. Jhenetter 671-3505

FEMALE

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Female
- 21-25 years old
- Accounting Graduate
- Computer Literate

INTERESTED APPLICANT, PLEASE • CALL 712-4105

CIVIL ENGINEER (F)
must be very good estimator-structural & finishing works.
Susan/Ric
T-8942302•8927251

DRUGSTORE PHARMACIST 7245216 Wkday; 7214288 Sun

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FEMALE

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MED TECH
MEDIC WORLD 632-9323 to 24

Pre-School Teacher 9414361

Secretary Com. Lit. 936-9282

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Wanted PROMOGIRL
- Single
- w/ experience as promogirl
- College level
- 18 to 28 years old

Call Ms. Jhenetter 671-3505

MALE/FEMALE

*Ofc Staff 18-45y/o w/w/oexp Start asap 9134470 Ella

*Ofc Staff 18-45y/o w/w/oexp Start asap 9134470 Teresa

ARCH'L & ENG'G FIRM/ COMP TECH
Needs: 1-Male/Female
Comp CADD OPERATOR/ESTIMATOR; w/exp in Design & Construction
Send Resume to: MCPO 3550

ASAP MDR W/EXP. 28-45 YRS OLD SALES LADY 18-28 YRS OLD MEDSEC CALL 9261692 / 4132185 ANNA

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BEAUTICIAN Submit resume w/pic May 31 1-5PM 1372 Qzn Blvd. 0917-2504055 Gala

CARE GIVER T5280722

Sale Engr. Coll. Grad Exp. In Semicon Pref w/Driving Lic. & Comp.Lit 8402060 Mel ASAP

Cook-Baker-Waiter-Dish Washer-Fax7123829 Mail: 458 QuezonAveCor. BMA. Ave

★OFCSTAFF9134470RUBY ★

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

For Immediate Hiring
ACCOUNTING CLERK
-Newly Graduate
-Female
Apply in person or send resume at 9103 Banuyo St. San Antonio Village, Makati City 1203 Fax# 897-4362

HAIRDRESSER
SALES LADY
for SM Megamall 0917-8398638

HRD Staff 09197572274 Mike

JUNIOR MANGERS ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE TEXT / CALL (0917)2064750

OFC STAFF 9134470HOWARD

SALES ASSISTANT

- Male or Female
- 21-28 years old
- Preferably with background in Interior Design
- Can work under minimum supervision

Interested applicant
Pls Call 712-4105

STAY-IN NURSE M/F licensed w/exp. at least 110lbs. above. Apply in person at 26 Don Pepe St. corner Tirad Pass (3rd St. from Sto.Domingo Church)Q.C. 731-1033

URGENTLY NEED: PHARMACIST pref. res. of Sampaloc Mla. Apply at UG7 Cityland 10 Dela Costa St. Mkti. 893-7161 Vangie

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BIG GARAGE SALE JUNE 1&2 8-5PM 29 LUZON AYALA ALABANG

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invites you to a FREE SEMINAR at
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Tels. (02) 892-0115; (0919) 323-5932 - JUDY

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOSE P. MARCENO & JUANA B. MARCENO has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs per Doc. No. 1467, Page No. 429, Book No. XXIII, Series of 2002 Before Notary Public Maria Andrelita S. Austria, Consul of Republic Of Philippines City and County of San Francisco.
(PDI-May 26, June 2 & 9 2002)

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	PANIC ROOM
2	SPIDERMAN
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4	JIHAD WARRIOR
5	STAR WARS
6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
7	AKALA MO
8	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
3	STAR WARS
4	BENEATH LOCHNESS
5	RESIDENT EVIL
6	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
7	SPIDERMAN
8	PANIC ROOM
9	JIHAD WARRIOR
10	AKALA MO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	SPIDERMAN
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
4	STAR WARS
5	RESIDENT EVIL
6	AKALA MO
7	PANIC ROOM
8	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
9	BENEATH LOCHNESS
10	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
11	DEATH OF SMOOCHY
12	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	SPIDERMAN
2	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4	RESIDENT EVIL
5	PANIC ROOM
6	STAR WARS
7	AKALA MO
8	LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .
9	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10	IN THE BEDROOM
11	BENEATH LOCHNESS
12	JIHAD WARRIOR

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	RESIDENT EVIL
2	PANIC ROOM
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4	SPIDER-MAN
5	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6	JIHAD WARRIOR
7	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
8	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
9	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10	STAR WARS
11	AKALA MO
12	IN THE BEDROOM

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	AKALA MO
5	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
6	RESIDENT EVIL
7	STAR WARS
8	PANIC ROOM
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8066688

1	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4	PANIC ROOM
5	IN THE BEDROOM
6	AKALA MO
7	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8	STAR WARS
9	JIHAD WARRIOR
10	BENEATH LOCHNESS

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	SPIDER-MAN
2	SNOW DOGS
3	K-PAX
4	THE DEEP END
5	AKALA MO
6	JASON-X
7	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8	STAR WARS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	THE DEEP END
2	CLOSED
3	SPIDER-MAN
4	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
5	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6	STAR WARS
7	CLOSED
8	I AM SAM

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	STAR WARS
2	BENEATH LOCHNESS
3	SPIDER-MAN
4	AKALA MO
5	7 DAYS TO LIVE
6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	STAR WARS
2	RESIDENT EVIL
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	PANIC ROOM

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	RESIDENT EVIL
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	AKALA MO
4	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	SHOWTIME
2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3	STAR WARS
4	7 DAYS TO LIVE
5	I AM SAM
6	SNOW DOGS

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM

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1	RESIDENT EVIL
2	PANIC ROOM

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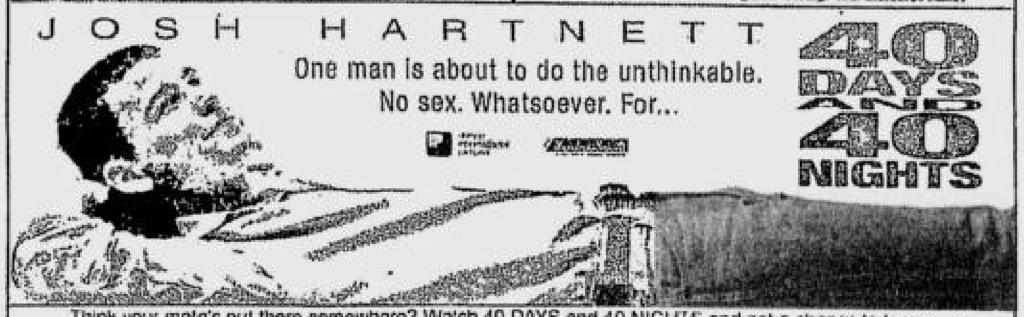

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MOVIE GUIDE

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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	RESIDENT EVIL
2 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
3 (DTS)	STARWARS
4 GOLD (DTS)	STARWARS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	PANIC ROOM
6 GOLD (SDDS)	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	RESIDENT EVIL
8	AKALA MO
9	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10	JIHAD WARRIOR

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	BENEATH LOCHNESS
6 (DTS)	RESERVE

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	PAGSALUHAN NATIN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STARWARS
5	PAGSALUHAN NATIN

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	RESIDENT EVIL
2	LIGAYA, PANTASYA..
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	JIHAD WARRIOR
5	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
6	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	AKALA MO
2	SPIDER-MAN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN
A	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	
3	
4	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
5	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
7 (DTS)	STAR WARS
8 (SDDS)	PANIC ROOM
9 (DOLBY)	RESIDENT EVIL

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 (SDDS)	PANIC ROOM
5	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
6 (DOLBY)	RESIDENT
7 (DTS)	STAR WARS
8	AKALA KO
9	LIGAYA PANTASYA

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	PAGSALUIHAN NATIN
5 (SDDS)	STAR WARS
6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
7 (DOLBY)	PANIC ROOM
8	RESIDENT EVIL

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	PANIC ROOM
3 (DTS)	RESIDENT EVIL
4	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
5 (SDDS)	JIHAD WARRIOR

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
Lords	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
Jennet	LIGAYA PANTASYA

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	RESIDENT EVIL

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
3	RESERVE
4	JIHAD WARRIOR
5	LIGAYA, PANTASYA

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1
2

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	PAGSALUHAN NATIN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	AKALA MO
3 (DTS)	RESIDENT EVIL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (DTS)	AKALA MO
3 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
4	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (DOLBY)	RESIDENT EVIL
3 (DTS)	STAR WARS
4	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	STAR WARS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	AKALA MO
2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 (DOLBY)	BLADE-2
4 (DTS)	STAR WARS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	FRUIT IS SWELLING
3	LIGAYA PANTASYA..
4 (DTS)	JIHAD WARRIOR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	STARWARS
2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 (DTS)	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	BENEATH LOCHNESS
5	AKALA MO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS
3	RESIDENT EVIL

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3	BENEATH LOCHNESS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	STARS WARS
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	SANA TOTOO NA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	STAR WARS
3	AKALA KO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DEEP END
2	SPIDERMAN
3	JASON-X
4	AKALA KO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	JASON-X
2	AKALA MO
3 (DTS)	7 DAYS TO LIVE
4	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

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Galleria
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633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX	STAR WARS 2
2	RESIDENT EVIL
3	SPIDER-MAN
4	JIHAD WARRIOR
5	PANIC ROOM
6	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7	IN THE BEDROOM
8	SPIDER-MAN
9	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10	BENEATH LOCHNESS

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	STAR WARS 2
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
5	JIHAD WARRIOR
6	PANIC ROOM
7	RESIDENT EVIL

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	STAR WARS 2
3	STAR WARS 2
4	PANIC ROOM
5	SPIDER-MAN
6	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
7	RESIDENT EVIL
8	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	STAR WARS 2
2	PANIC ROOM
3	AKALA MO
4	SPIDER-MAN
5	RESIDENT EVIL
6	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
7	JIHAD WARRIOR
8	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	STAR WARS 2
2	PANIC ROOM
3	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
4	RESIDENT EVIL
5	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6	JIHAD WARRIOR

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	STAR WARS 2
2	SHOWTIME
3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
4	K-PAX
5	I AM SAM
6	AKALA MO

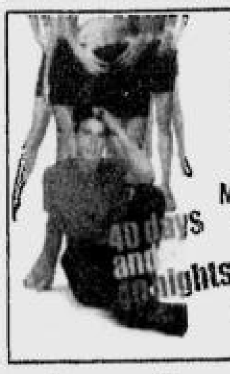
Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	STAR WARS 2
2	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
3	I AM SAM
4	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
5	DEEP END
6	SPIDER MAN

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	STAR WARS 2
4	BENEATH LOCHNESS
5	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6	STAR WARS 2

malabon citisquare-
soon to open



Late Night Screening

on May 31- June 1, 2002
Friday & Saturday -
11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

how-2-reach-us:

email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Pops performs in Bataan

FERNANDEZ

FRESH from the success of her romantic comedy flick, "Videoke King," opposite Robin Padilla, concert queen Pops Fernandez goes to Bataan for a sizzling one-night show, "Pops On Tour," June 8, Saturday at 8 p.m.

Make way for another overpowering performance as Pops ignites the historic city with the latest upbeat tunes, sentimental love songs and choice cuts from her new album, "The Way I Feel."

Joining her as special guest is Troy Montero, with the Hotlegs. Musical director is Marc Lopez.

The show is a benefit for the completion of the San Roque Parish church in Lamao, Limay, Bataan.

Last April, Regine Velasquez went to Balanga to perform for the same cause and now it is Pop's turn to lend a hand and at the same time entertain the audiences of Bataan and nearby provinces.

"Pops On Tour" happens at the Bataan People's Center at the Provincial Capitol Compound in Balanga City, Bataan. Tickets are available at McDonald's Balanga (047) 237-7757, VETAF's (047) 237-3588 and all Catholic parish offices of Bataan or call Maxi-Media (551-7777 / 551-8999) for details.

The show is a production of Maxi-Media International and is presented by Beam Toothpaste, Victory Liner and Double Happiness. It is also presented by the following radio stations: Joey @ 92.3 Rhythms, 96.3 WRock and 105.1 Crossover.

Center for Pop marks 18th year

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines, the country's first and largest training school in pop singing, will celebrate its 18th anniversary with a series of activities from June 5 to 12.

On June 5, the Center will mount a concert, "Lakbay Musika 2002," at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (Main Theater).

The show will topbill Dulce, with the students of the Center for Pop Music Philippines from different branches all over Metro Manila, including extension classes in 30 schools.

On June 8 and 9, the "Emceeing and Hosting Lab" will be conducted by Butch Albarracin at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. It is open to interested individuals who would like to discover and develop their emceeing and hosting skills. It is organized by the Learning Access (Learnex), a non-singing division of the Center for Pop Music Philippines.

On June 11, the country's youngest all-female trio, Center Angels, will be launched at Onstage in Greenbelt, Makati City.

The trio is composed of Lenel Velasco, 11, Jenaira Jalasco, 10, and Doreen Cardinal, 9.

On June 12, the Center for Pop will present its Philippine Independence Day concert special, "Awitan sa Araw ng Kalayaan," at Kawit Freedom Park in Cavite (in front of Aguinaldo's shrine).

Sponsored by Kawit Mayor Federico "Kit" Poblete, "Awitan sa Araw ng Kalayaan" will culminate with a grand fireworks display to highlight Kawit's celebration of Independence Day.

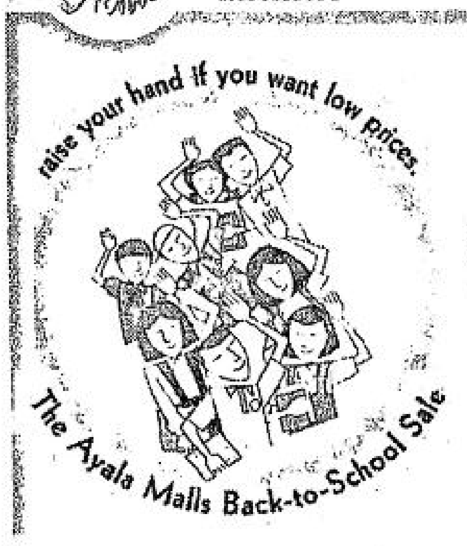
For details, call the Center for Pop Music Philippines at 73 Ermin Garcia st., Cubao, Quezon City, with tel. nos. 723-9373 or 727-5293 or 411-7310.

For screening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 RESIDENT EVIL	1 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	1 STARWARS: EPISODE 2	1 STARWARS: EPISODE 2 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00	1 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	2 RESIDENT EVIL	2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	PANIC ROOM 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT	3 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	3 PANIC ROOM	3 IN THE BEDROOM 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40, 11:20	3 PANIC ROOM
4 JIHAD WARRIOR	4 JIHAD WARRIOR	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM June 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	4 DEATH SMOOCHY
	5 IN THE BEDROOM		RESIDENT EVIL 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
	6 PANIC ROOM			
	7 SPIDER-MAN			

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" (or any Ayala Cinema) and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com.


The Ayala Malls Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU

raise your hand if you want low prices.
The Ayala Malls Back-to-School Sale

Makati
May 27 to 30
Back-to-School Fair
at the Glorietta Activity Center

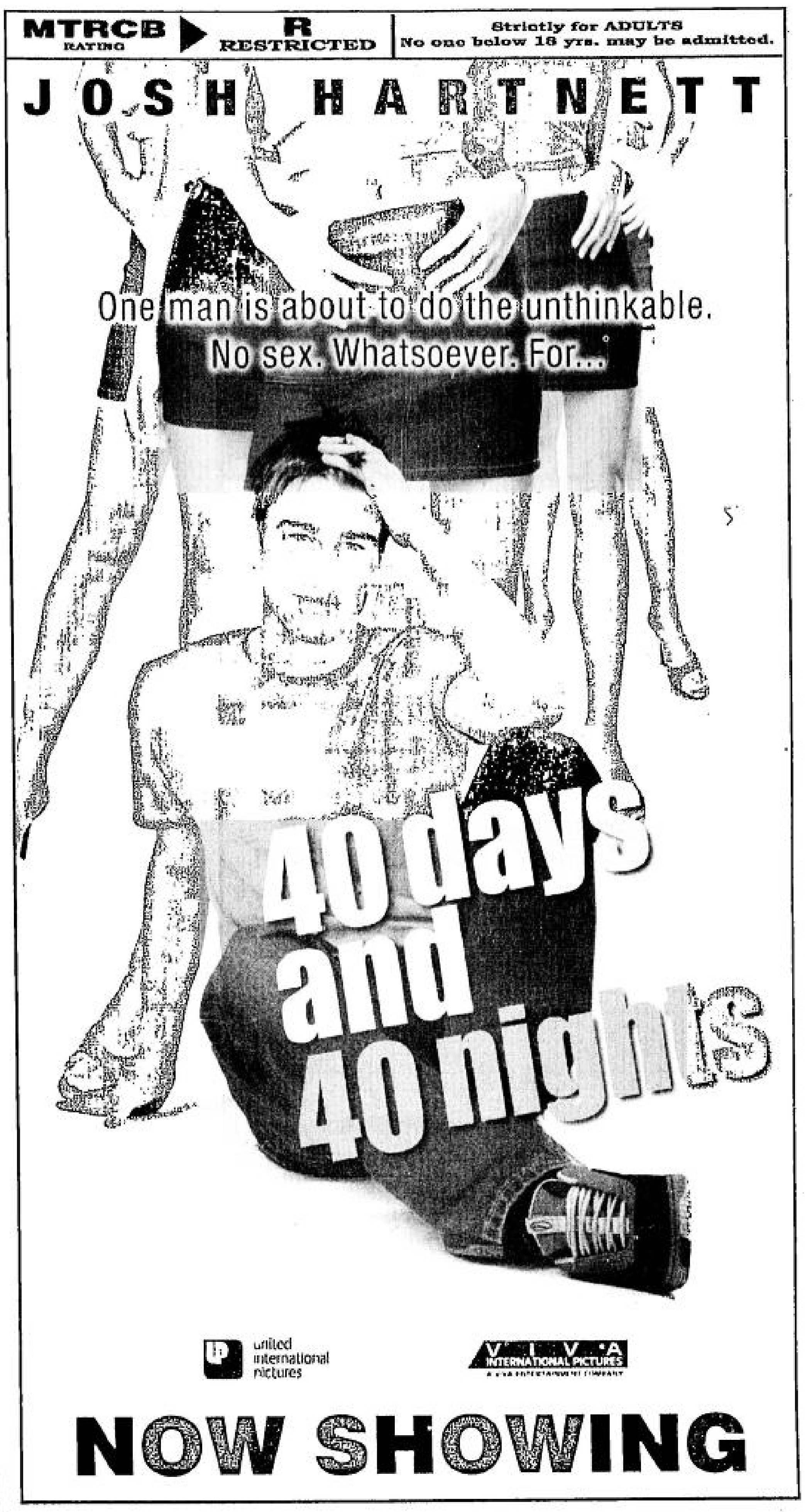
Alabang
May 31, June 1 & 2 and June 14, 15 & 16
10-to-10 Town Sale

Back-to-School Fair
June 7, 8 & 9 at the Activity Center
June 14, 15 & 16 at the Cinema Lobby

Cebu
May 31, June 1 & 2
Mallwide Sale

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2 - 0172 & DTI-Cebu No. 203 Series of 2002.

Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more.
Win a prize, visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph
www.ayalaland.com.ph


MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

JOSH HARTNETT

One man is about to do the unthinkable.
No sex. Whatsoever. For...

40 days and 40 nights

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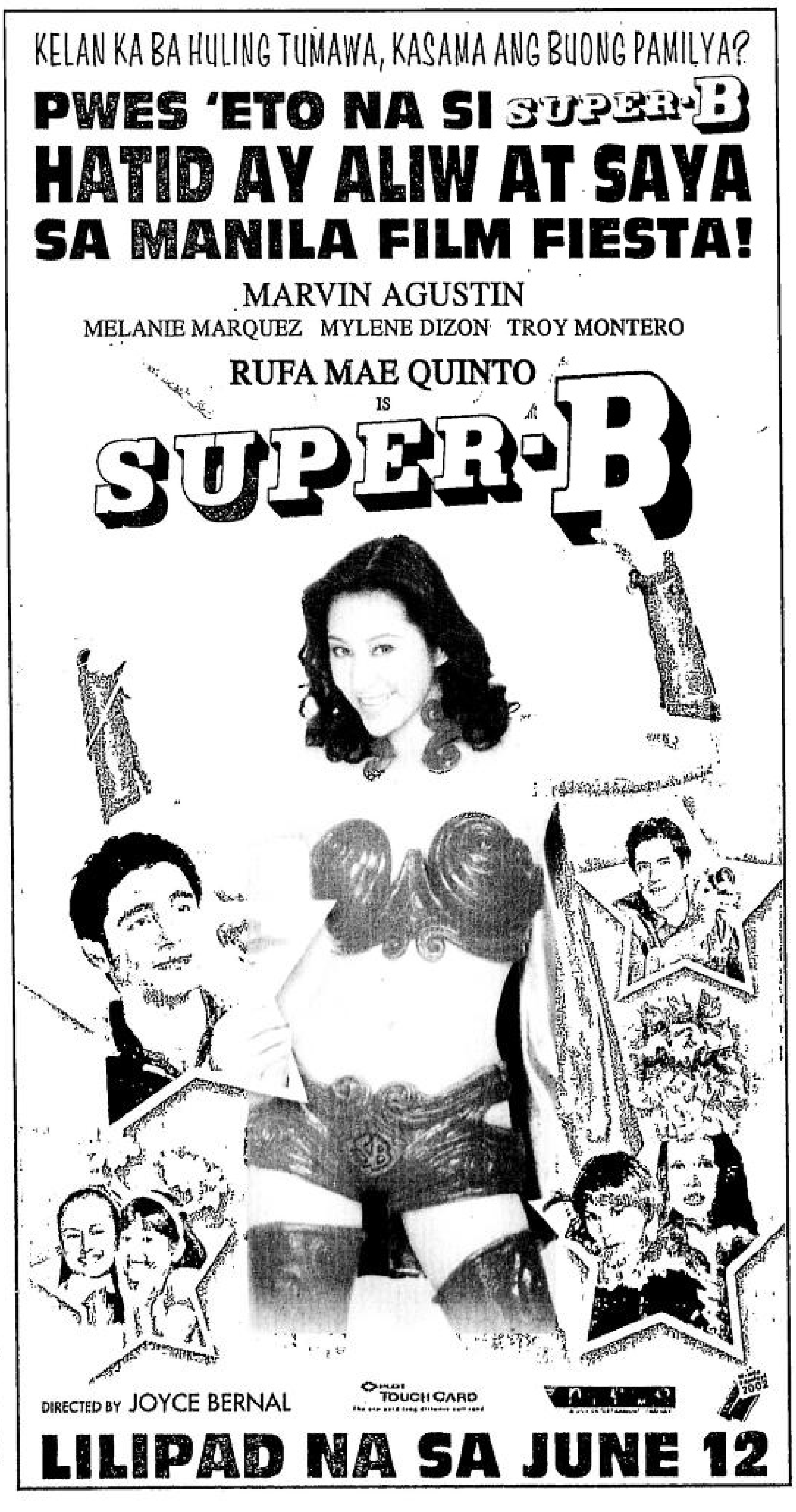
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES

NOW SHOWING


KELAN KA BA HULING TUMAWA, KASAMA ANG BUONG PAMILYA?
PWES 'ETO NA SI SUPER-B
HATID AY ALIW AT SAYA
SA MANILA FILM FIESTA!

MARVIN AGUSTIN
MELANIE MARQUEZ MYLENE DIZON TROY MONTERO
RUFA MAE QUINTO
IS
SUPER-B

DIRECTED BY JOYCE BERNAL
TOUCH CARD

LILIPAD NA SA JUNE 12

APAT NA BIGATING PANGALAN
ISANG PELIKULANG 'DI MALILIMUTAN

CHRISTOPHER DE LEON DINGDONG DANTES

SHARON CUNETA JUDY ANN SANTOS

MAGKAPATID

DIRECTED BY JOEL LAMANGAN

DUNKIN DONUTS
FUJIFILM
VIVA FILMS

OPENS JUNE 12 MANILA FILM FESTIVAL

Weak elements hold sway

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

“AKALA KO” was supposed to make a star of **Dingdong Dantes**. To improve his stellar chances, he was paired with popular young star **Judy Ann Santos**, who has been “*ninang*” to a number of aspiring male stars, including **Jinggoy Estrada**, **Mikey Arroyo** and **Piolo Pascual**. Except for Piolo, however, Judy Ann has been largely unsuccessful in nudging her male screen partners to bankable stardom.

Dingdong appears to have similarly fallen short of definite success. No doubt, he's a looker and leading-man material, but his role in “Akala Ko” is neither here nor there. He's cast as a well-off young man who doesn't have any direction in life.

He works as a car salesman and does well enough, thanks to his fresh-faced appeal, but he doesn't really care about finishing his studies and is happy just living the good life. He has a wealthy girlfriend, but doesn't care for her all that much, either.

For her part, Judy Ann is a security guard who has a huge crush on Dingdong, who lives in the condominium where she works. He doesn't really pay her much mind, until she saves him from a stick-up artist.

Her bravery lands her in the hospital, but she doesn't mind because Dingdong is now beholden to her.

When he loses his job after he's shafted by his envious co-employees, Judy Ann helps him find new employment by giving the other applicants for the position the runaround.

Eventually, Judy Ann is able to motivate Dingdong to become more focused and responsible, but this key development is weakly presented, so the storytelling doesn't peak as effectively as it should.

To make things worse, Dingdong is an appealing but unexciting performer, so Judy Ann acts circles around him. This doesn't seem right, since the film is supposed to help *him* attain stardom.

Also, Judy Ann is made to act in too madcap a fashion, as a sort of young **Maricel Soriano**. But the style doesn't look comfortable on her, so the effect is sometimes trying-hard.

On the plus side, new director **Lyle Sacris**' gives the production an agreeably youthful and with-it look. Sometimes, however, outre shots call to much attention to themselves, and the storytelling is upstaged.

We also like the movie's occasional specific references, which make it look more “grounded” than other light romantic-comedy flicks. For instance, Judy Ann's family sells friend *itik*, so there are scenes set in duck farms that give the film a different look.

Eventually, however, the movie's weak elements hold sway over its plus points.

25th season

FOR its 25th season, Gantimpala Theater Foundation is presenting “Kanser,” “El Filibusterismo,” “Florante at Laura,” and “Ibong Adarna.” Schedule:

August, “Kanser” at the AFP Theater, St. Cecilia's Hall and RFC Cinema in Las Piñas. September, “El Filibusterismo” at the same venues. October, “Florante at Laura.” And November, “Ibong Adarna.”

Gantimpala's special anniversary show, “A Silver Harvest” will be staged on July 26 at the CCP. It will feature excerpts of the company's classics, a medley of theater-inspired songs, and a stellar lineup of past and present Gantimpala actors. The late Rene Requiestas and Ray Ventura will be honored during the anniversary show.

McGregor finally gets it right

EWAN McGregor wasn't happy about his protrayal of Jedi master Obi-Wan Kenobi in “The Phanton Menace.” He admits that he had trouble getting a handle on the “beautiful dignity and Zen calm” of the Jedi Knight.

Now, in “Attack of the Clones,” Obi-Wan is 10 years older, and McGregor is able to play him as more mature and dryly witty. That's closer to the original characterization of Obi-Wan by **Alec Guinness**, so the thespic continuity is clearer.

“He's the master now,” McGregor observes, “So he's more secure, more rounded. And you get to see more of his humor. Another advantage is the fact that I'm now used to the difficult task of doing the special effects acting' that I found so tedious and distracting the first time around, so my characterization is more relaxed.

“This time, it's **Hayden** (**Christensen**) who's had to undergo his baptism of fire of acting opposite creatures that he can't see, and that are animated into the frame only after he's shot his scenes.”

‘The Crystal Ocean’

AT 9 p.m. on June 7 on the National Geographic Channel, “Nat Geo Max” presents “The Crystal Ocean.” Every year, in the seas surrounding Antarctica, an extraordinary event takes place: As the chill of a night that will last six months envelops the frozen continent, the surface of the surrounding sea turns to solid ice, trapping everything in its path.

This seemingly inhospitable expanse provides an intricate web of survival on which the lives of all of the continent's inhabitants, from microscopic krill to mammoth whales, depend.

But, as winter's long sleep turns to polar summer, icebergs are released from the blanket of ice and resume their inexorable journey.

Singing contest winner

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Angeline Quinto, who did a heartfelt rendition of Wency Cornejo's “Habang May Buhay,” will have the chance to compete in the final round of “Star for a Night” talent contest.

Quinto, who hails from Sampaloc, Manila, bested three others in the second semifinal round held June 1. She is the third contestant who will get a crack at the P1 million at stake during the SFAN grand finals to be held later this year.

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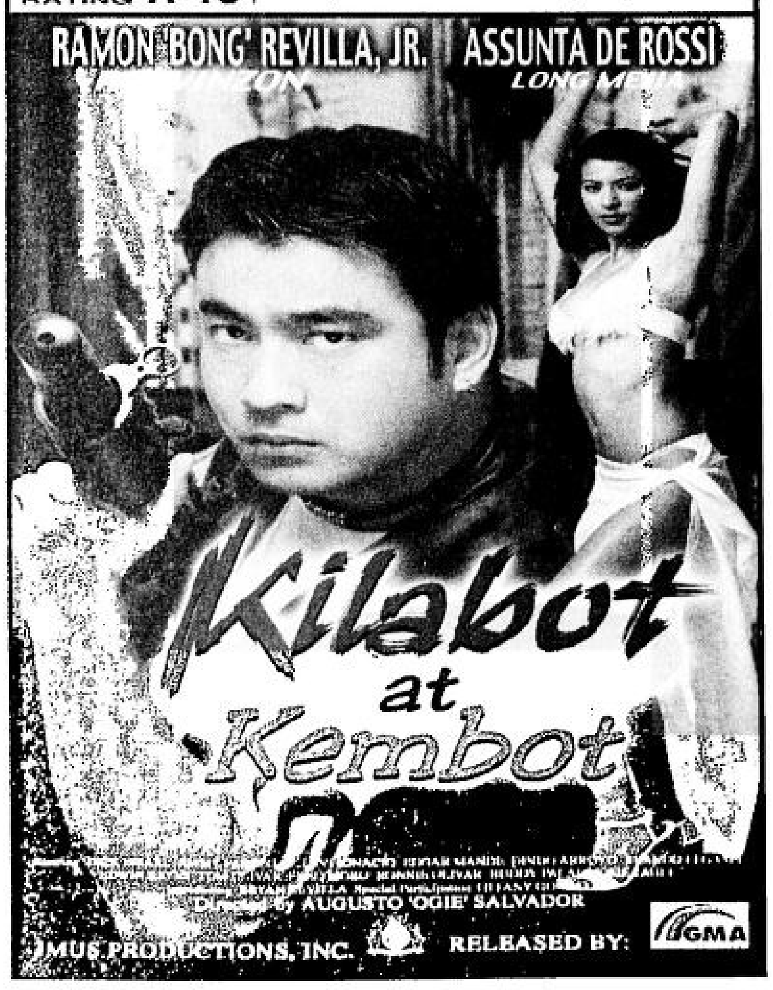
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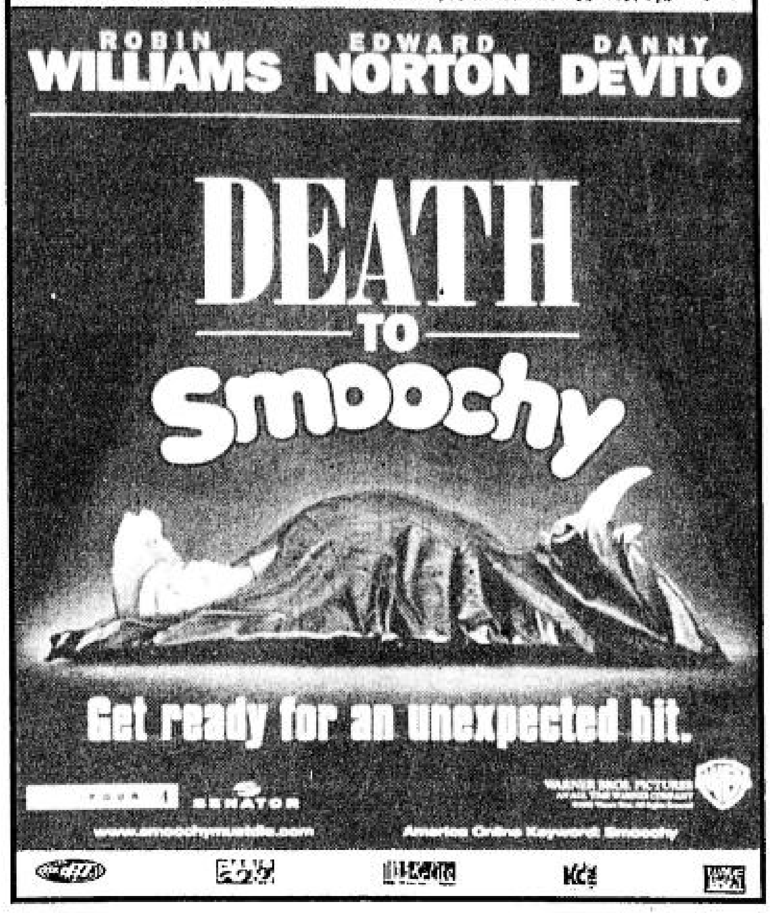
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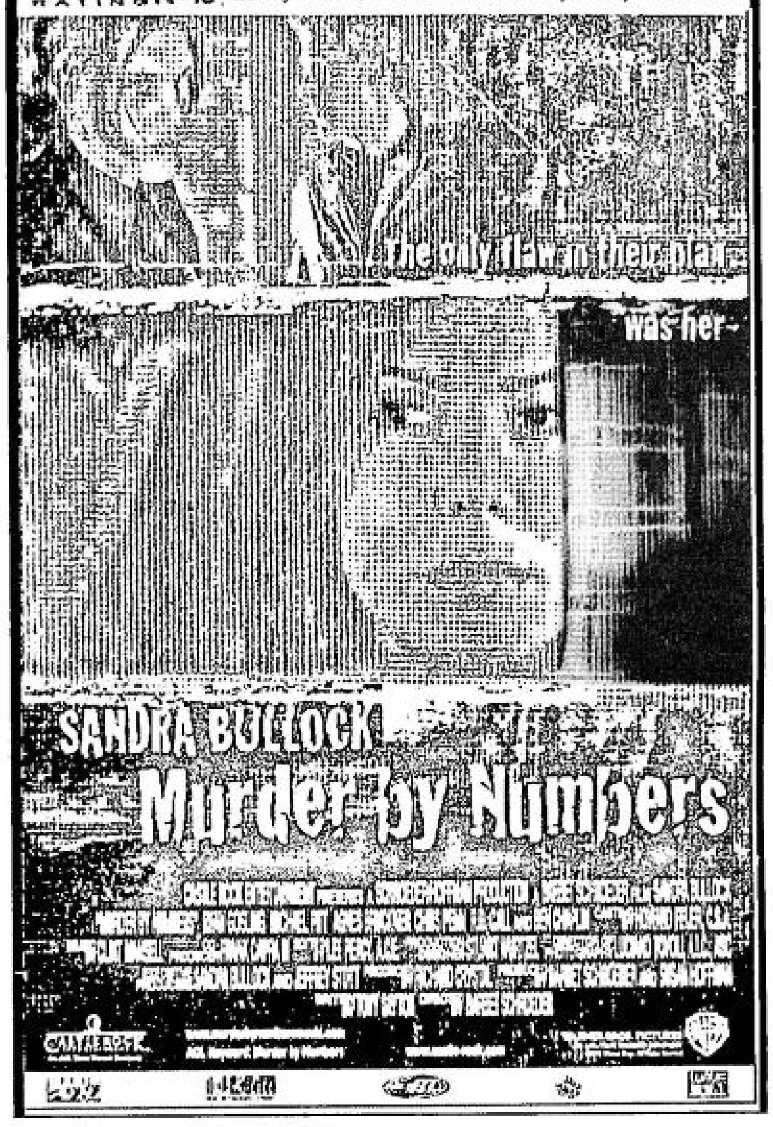
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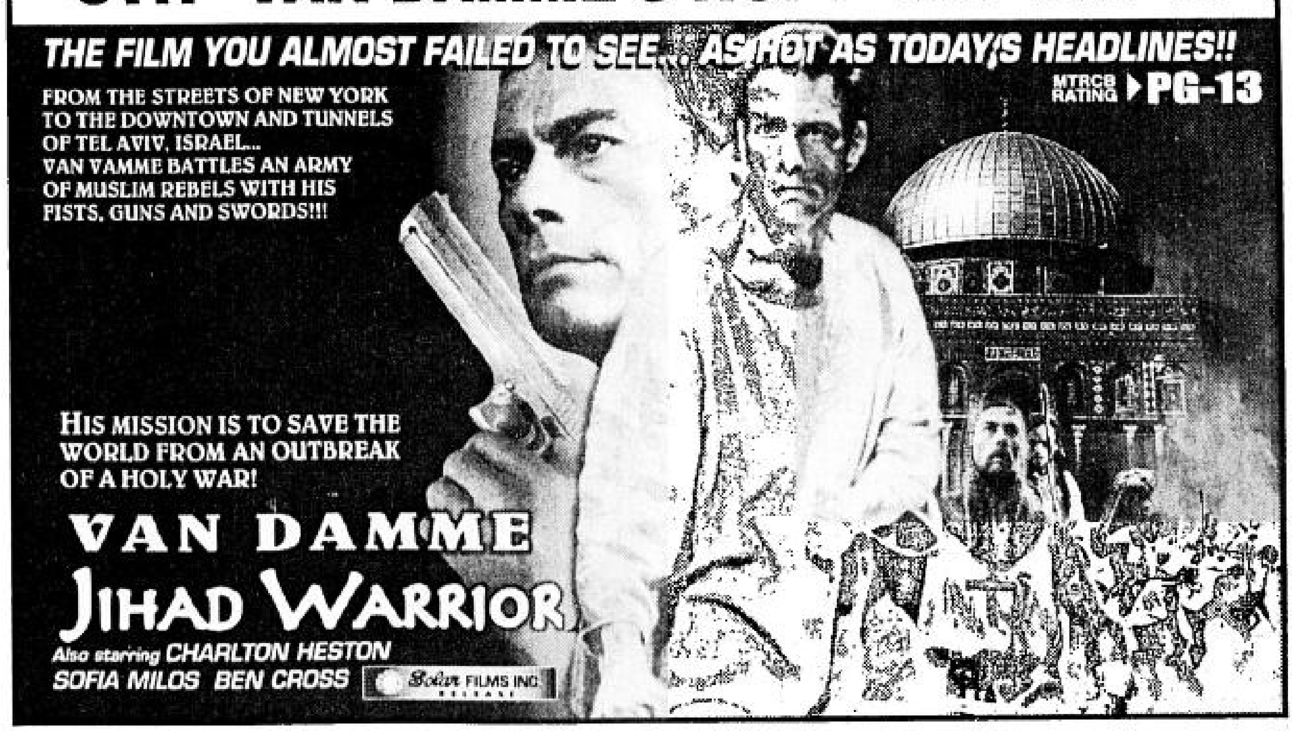
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

LULU TAN-GAN, MICHI CALICA-SOTTO,
PATRICE RAMOS-DIAZ, JULIET AND MIMI TAN

Designing women

PLAYTIME

By the staff

JUNE may have been stricken off the Filipino calendar as the wedding-est month, but for Lulu Tan-Gan, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Michi Calica-Sotto and the sisters Mimi and Juliet Tan, designing bridal and other attires for women is a lifetime passion, in and out of season. In an industry dominated by men designers ("but they're also women," they insist), these five designers show there is more to Philippine fashion than the tried and tested likes of Moreno, Farrales, Sotto, Hans and Cordero.

Not that there's competition with the men ("they're women," again they insist). For Lulu, the queen of knits and the outgoing president of the Fashion and Design Council of the Phils., the most important thing is for the members of the fashion industry to unite in order to promote Philippine design in and out of the country, the better to widen its market and draw much-needed investments.

Despite less-than-ideal conditions, Philippine fashion design continues to thrive because of its inexhaustible mine of rich talents. Patrice, for instance, has become the favorite of Manila society for her bridal and made-to-order wear. Michi continues to impress with her classic silhouettes. And the Tan sisters, the duo behind the popular DAACS (that's dresses and accessories) line at Sari-sari and the pioneers of street and club wear, continue to bewilder and delight with their crazy but classy takes on fashion.

DESIGNING/ p.C2

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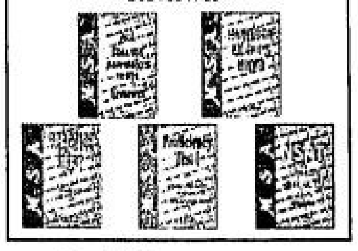

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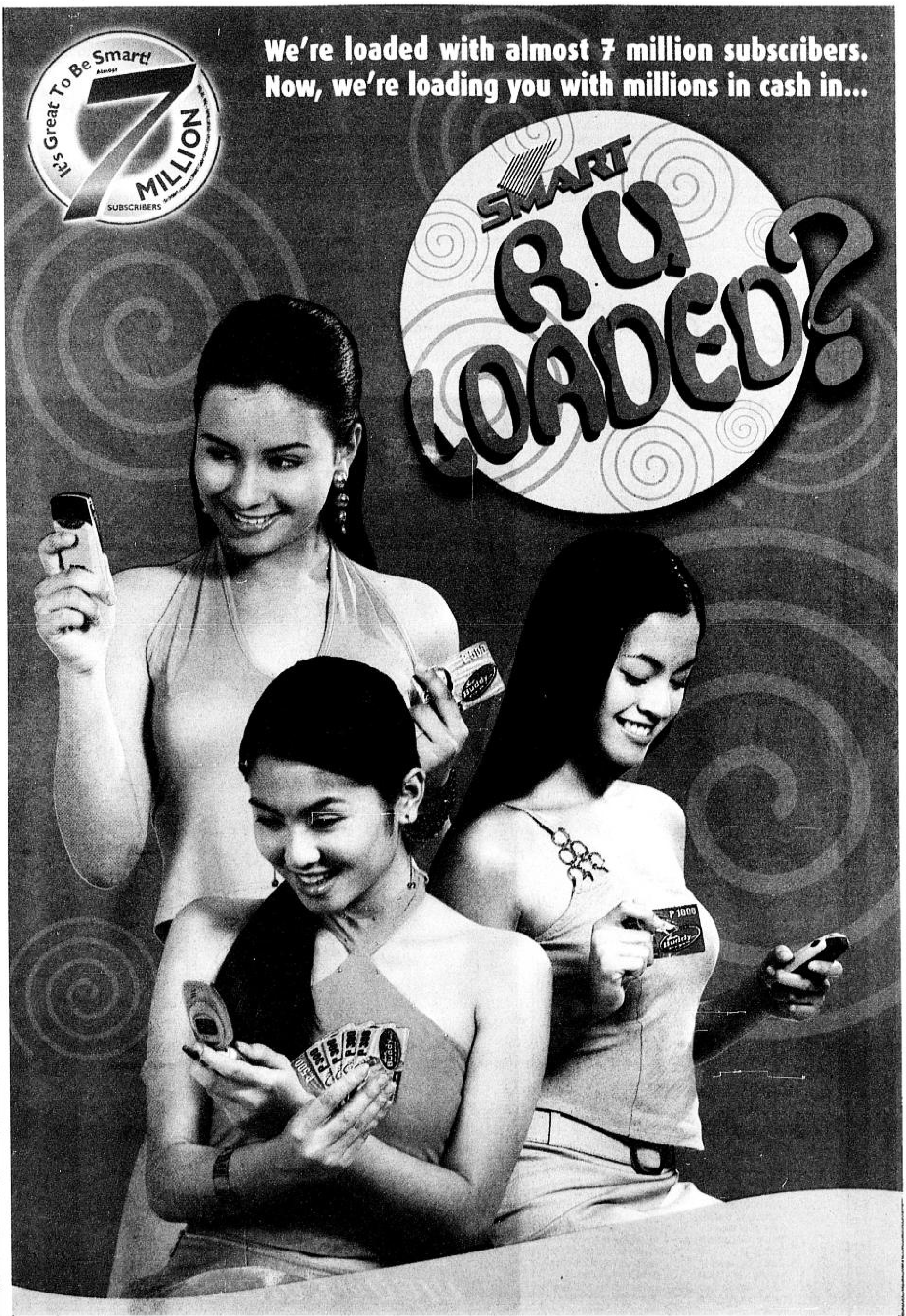
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SMART Simply Amazing!

Designing women

Who's the dream client that you'd like to dress up? Patrice Ramoz-Diaz: Uhm, Piolo Pascual (Laughter) Dress? Not undress?

From page C1

How has it been in a field where male designers seem to be shine more than female designers? Where female designers seem to be afterthoughts?

Patrice Ramos-Diaz (P): (Chuckles) I've never thought of it that way because I've never felt competitive toward the male designers... My business has been surviving—I've been in the business for five years—so far I can't complain with the amount of work that I do. I've never thought male designers are a threat. I think female designers are not so conscious about wanting to shine or wanting to be in the limelight. It's more like we do our own thing. We try to make the clients happy without trying so much to be like superstars or celebrities.

Michi Calica-Sotto (MCS): You know, it's not really a battle of the sexes... When push comes to shove, at the end of the day, it's really what your clothes are about, or how your clothes make women feel.

Lulu Tan-Gan (L): (Chuckles) I don't think so, unless you have a family. I think the big difference really is, most of the male designers are single so the responsibility is less, and for the females we have to divide our time between our children, home management, husband duties (laughter) and yourself is last! You have to love your job so much to last, to survive. It's very tough, the operations, the actual running of the business. That's not really our forte. I started in SM in the late '70s. I applied as a designer, but they took me in as a merchandiser because there was Goulbourn, Gaupo and the rest ahead of me. I actually started, like, in the '80s. I began manufacturing in '85.

How about the sisters?

Juliet Tan (J): In '91. For us it was more difficult. Until now some people have comments about our clothes like, "These are not done by girls!" When we had our freestanding store, when we had our orders there, some people would insist on seeing the gay person. (Laughter) Until now they think DAACS is being designed by a gay person, *siguro* because our clothes are *kikay*.

Some people even thought you were gay lovers. (Laughter)

J: Yeah, there was a time. (Laughs)

L: I guess because the clothes are more artsy and less-mainstream RTW so they classify that as designed by gay people.

(To Lulu) But they'd know that, for example, clothes made by you are by a woman.

L: Probably, yeah.

Is there an advantage in going to a female designer?

MCS: I think so, yeah. I have more than a handful of clients who say, "You know, Michi, I like going to you because you can understand our good and bad days. You don't give us something that's uncomfortable just for the sake of fashion. You understand our neurosis on a day-to-day basis."

P: Sometimes also they compare, especially with brides. I guess I can relate to them because I was a bride myself and I know how stressful it is to prepare for a wedding. In terms of creativity, I think the same *lang*.

Did you make your own wedding gowns?

P: I designed it, but at the time I didn't have a shop yet so Rajo (Laurel) helped me execute it.

MCS: I did, too, my own wedding gown.

(To the sisters) Are you married?

J and MT: No.

J: No time for social life. (Laughs)

Are you products of design schools?

MCS: I went to the Art Institute of Seattle on a scholarship from Carolina Herrera in '93.

P: No. I never thought I would get into fashion design although I took up fine arts in college. But in terms of the technical side of fashion, I just took up cutting and sewing. I started when I was still in high school during summer breaks. It was more of *pilit pa nga*; our grandmother would force us to take those lessons. I was the type *na* art club president every year.

But you must have been fond of clothes even before.

MCS: Yeah, because I'd go to Japan every year with my family. Sanrio in the early '70s... I'd go to this place called Isamiya and I'd buy my own stuff at 12. (Chuckles)

P: I was always having clothes made and I was always with my mother buying fabrics.

Did your moms like clothes?

P: Yes.

MCS: Yes, she did. My mom also had this garment factory for doll clothes for export. When they closed down, they kept one sewer and I'd go there. I'd even skip school to watch this *custorera*. We'd talk and after three hours, the dress that I designed would be finished.

Did you actually learn to run the machine?

MCS: Yes, but not at the time, a little later.

P: Yes, I learned, too.

Tessa (Prieto-Valdes) likes going to you, Patrice, because you're able to make a dress really fast. One time she went to you four hours before the event and you finished the dress.

P: (Laughs) That's record-breaking.

You don't look like someone who would make the type of clothes Tessa wears.

P: The thing with made-to-order is you have to adjust to the client because, after all, the client wears it. You can't make something they won't be comfortable in. I try to adjust to the client's personality as long as I have my input... I'm not the type they dictate to, like, they bring a magazine and show me what to make. I have to design it. Otherwise, I tell them to just go to a *modista*. Why would they spend and go to a designer?

What is the big bulk of your business?

P and MCS: Weddings.

MCS: And cocktail dresses, party clothes, all formals.

How many weddings do you do on the average?

MCS: Three to four in a month.

In a month? That's a lot of weddings!

MCS: That's average. Sometimes it's six this month and two the next.

P: The same [for me] but as much as possible I don't do more than four [a month].

June is coming up. How many are you doing?

MCS: I'm only doing three weddings.

Maybe June is no longer the weddingest month.

P: It's December till February, the colder months. Aside from that I think it's because most Filipinos come home in December for Christmas so they take advantage of that when the relatives are here.

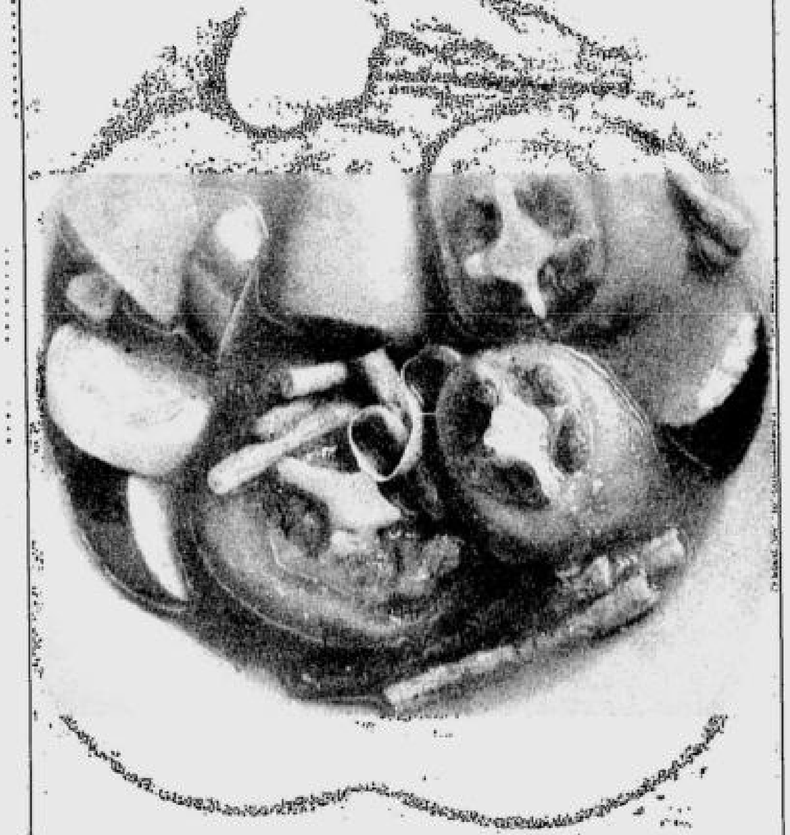
MCS: And I think they don't want to get rained on also. It's more like weather-conscious.

(To Juliet and Mimi) Have you ever done a wedding gown?

J: We did Jett Pangan's wedding, his bride's. But it's got to be somebody who wants

DESIGNING/ p.C3

Kare Kareng
kari-karipas kainin!



Gawing hindi basta-basta ordinaryo
ang inyong Kare Kare,
Buhusan ng bagong sarap ng
Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.

Kare Kare a la Mang Tomas

INGREDIENTS:
1/2 kilo ox tail
1 cup water
1 big onion, quartered
1/2 cup *atsuete* seeds for coloring (annatto seeds)
1 pc. eggplant
1/2 big bundle *sitaw* (string beans)
1 pc. banana heart (*puso ng saging*)
1 head garlic, choppped
2 pcs. onion, sliced
1/4 cup UFC Golden Fiesta Cooking Oil
1 cup MANG TOMAS ALL-AROUND SARSA
1/2 cup *bagoong alamang* (salted fermented small shrimps)
1/4 cup toasted ground peanuts
1/4 cup toasted ground rice
Salt to taste

PROCEDURE:
1. Boil ox tail in 6 cups water with onions until tender. Cut into desired pieces and set aside.
2. Cut vegetables into desired pieces. Boil enough water and drop string beans and parboil. Do likewise with eggplants and banana heart.
3. Soak *atsuete* seeds in water (1/2 cup); rub to bring out color. Set aside.
4. Saute garlic and onions in cooking oil. Add *atsuete* water. Let boil for 5 minutes. Blend in ground peanuts, and ground rice. Add Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.
5. Bring to boil then put in the meats. Just before removing from fire, add the vegetables.

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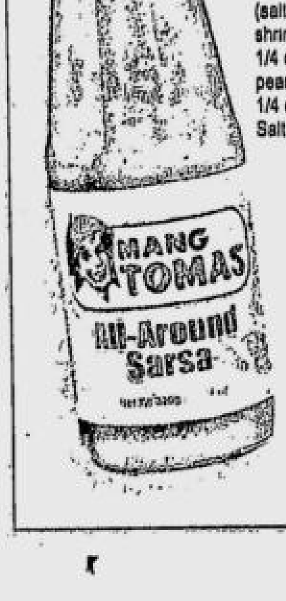

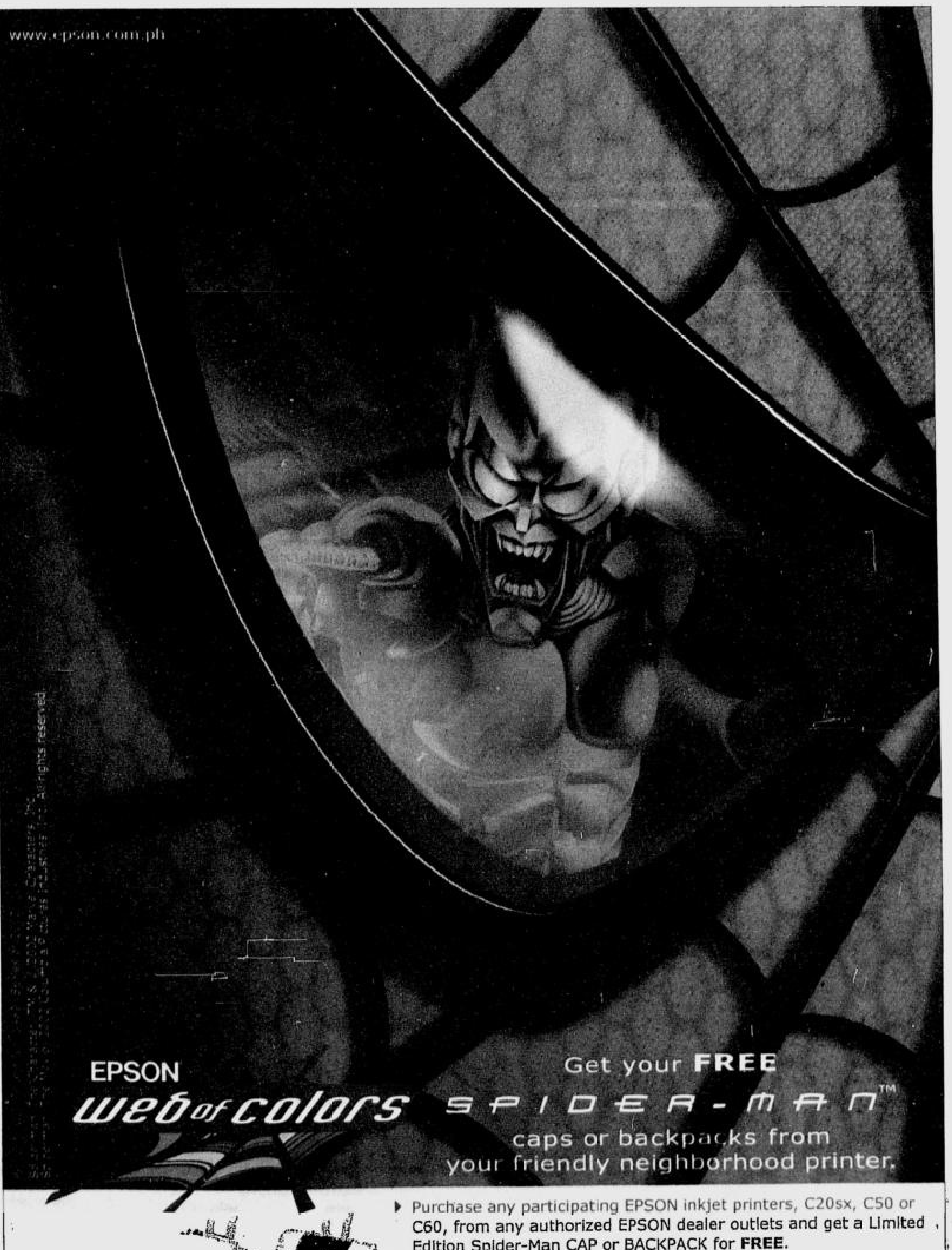

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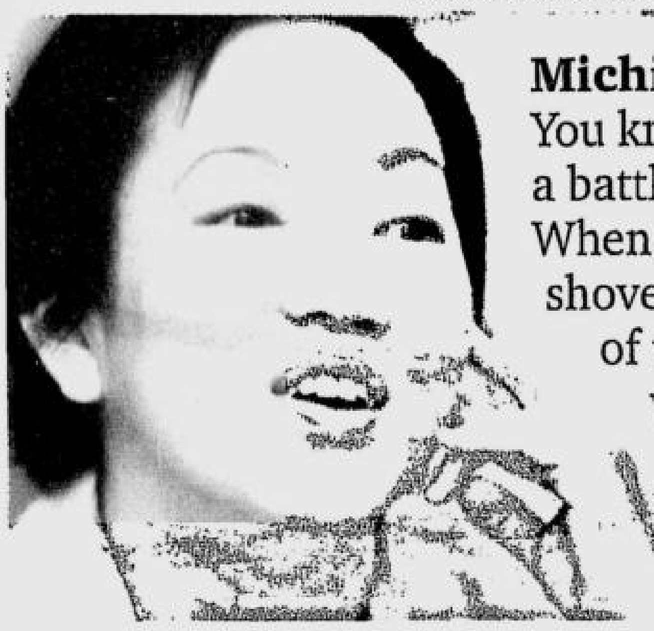

Michi Calica-Sotto: You know, it's not really a battle of the sexes... When push comes to shove, at the end of the day, it's really what your clothes are about, or how your clothes make women feel

Designing women

From page C2

something different.

What did the gown look like?

MT: White, still white.

With holes and stains? (Laughter) How would you describe your clothes?

MCS: I think mine would be... up-to-date without being shallow, pretty without being cloying, glamorous without being intimidating, and probably modish without being impractical. Easy to wear, easy to love.

What are you noted for?

MCS: I think more of very clean lines, although I do embellishments right now. People come to me wanting something almost without beadwork. I do that and I have stuck to that. But I've kind of forayed into more embellishments, more feminine touches.

Where are your shops?

P: Valle Verde.

MCS: Balete Drive.

How do you feel when fashion critics put down your collection? What was the worst thing said about your clothes?

L: (Poking at Mimi's shirt) There's a hole. (Laughter)

J: Sometimes we get comments like, "How do you wear this thing?" but we don't consider it a bad comment. *Minsan*, "Duster *ba 'to*?"

Mimi Tan (MT): They ask if our clothes are *pang*-prostitute. (Laughter)

J: When we started we made these beaded bras so when they came out in the shop, they thought the whole shop was *pang*-prostitute.

***Sosyal na* prostitute!**

J: I suppose that was the worst.

P: The worst written about me was that I lacked the technical skill. It was painful for a day but after a while, yeah, I moved on. (Smiles) Actually, I felt it was unfair because it was too general. She didn't go into details and I didn't understand why she said that.

When you say "she," who do you mean...? (Laughter)

P: But after reading it, I went through my collection again. Of course, I lost some confidence for maybe a few minutes, but after looking at my clothes, I was happy again, so I moved on.

MCS: I don't remember exactly because it was five years ago—but I remember it was also in this newspaper. (Chuckles) It was the first time I got really fried. It's really a blur to me now, but what I remember was calling Cesar Gaupo at 6:30 a.m. (Emphatic) "I don't like this! What am I going to do?" And then he goes, "*Naku*..."

Was it your first show?

MCS: No, but it was big. It was a whole page and with another female designer *pa*, and she got all the praises and I got all the flak. And I loved that collection to death! (Emphatic) When it happened I felt bad. But after that I saw Inno (Sotto) in Peninsula and he said that it wasn't fair... and Mike de la Rosa called and told me, "Your clothes are photogenic." I think if I got fried again, I wouldn't give a hoot, really.

P: Your clients, in fact, become supportive.

How about potential clients?

P: I'm sure it will have an effect. That was my concern because, after all, this is a business. Any bad press will affect the business or affect prospective clientele. I thought right away, "*Naku*, what if there are some brides thinking about consulting with me, they'll probably think twice *na*."

Don't you think your business is more word of mouth?

P and MCS: It is, yes.

Maybe it's the male designers who are creatures of the media.

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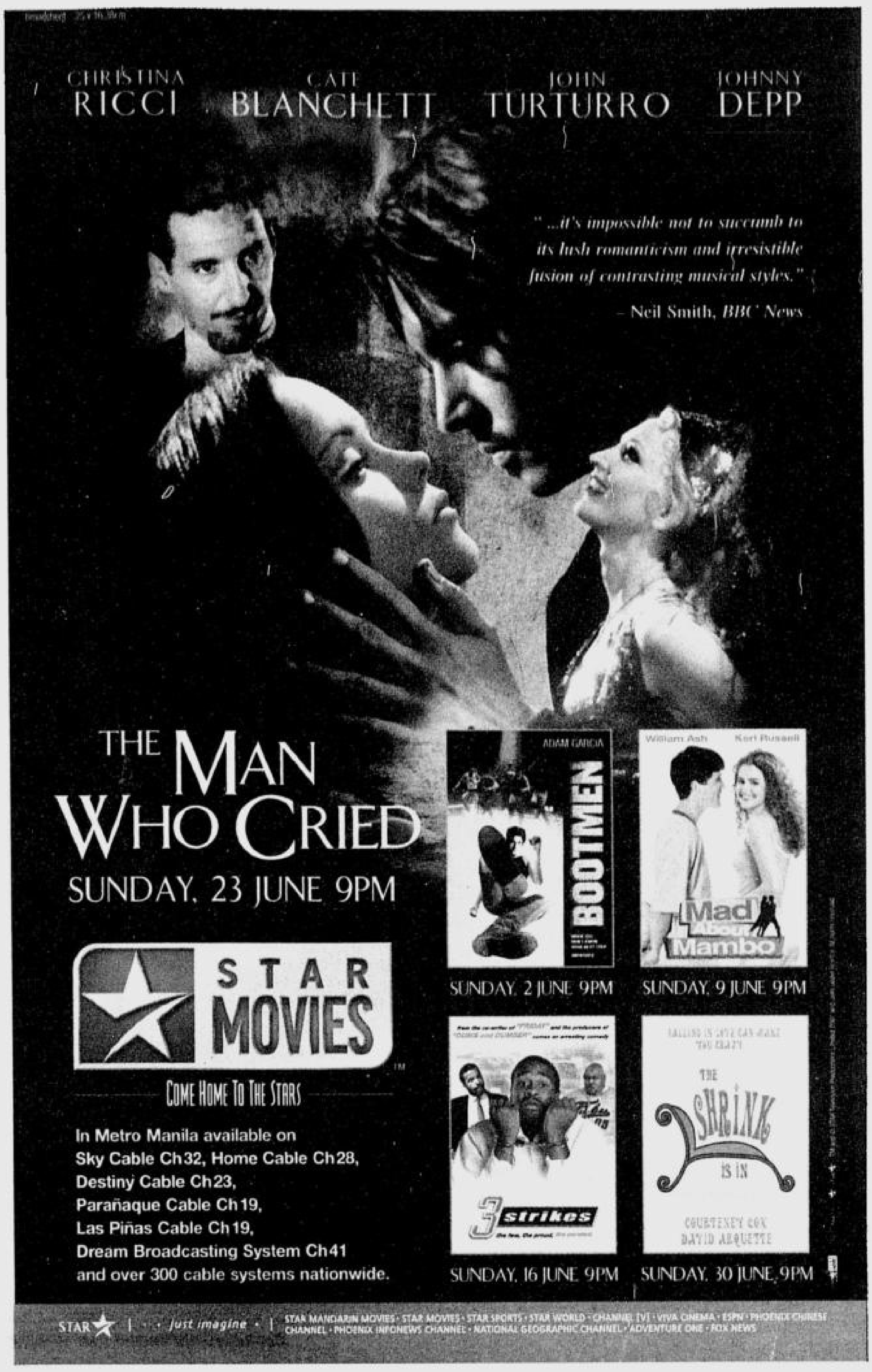
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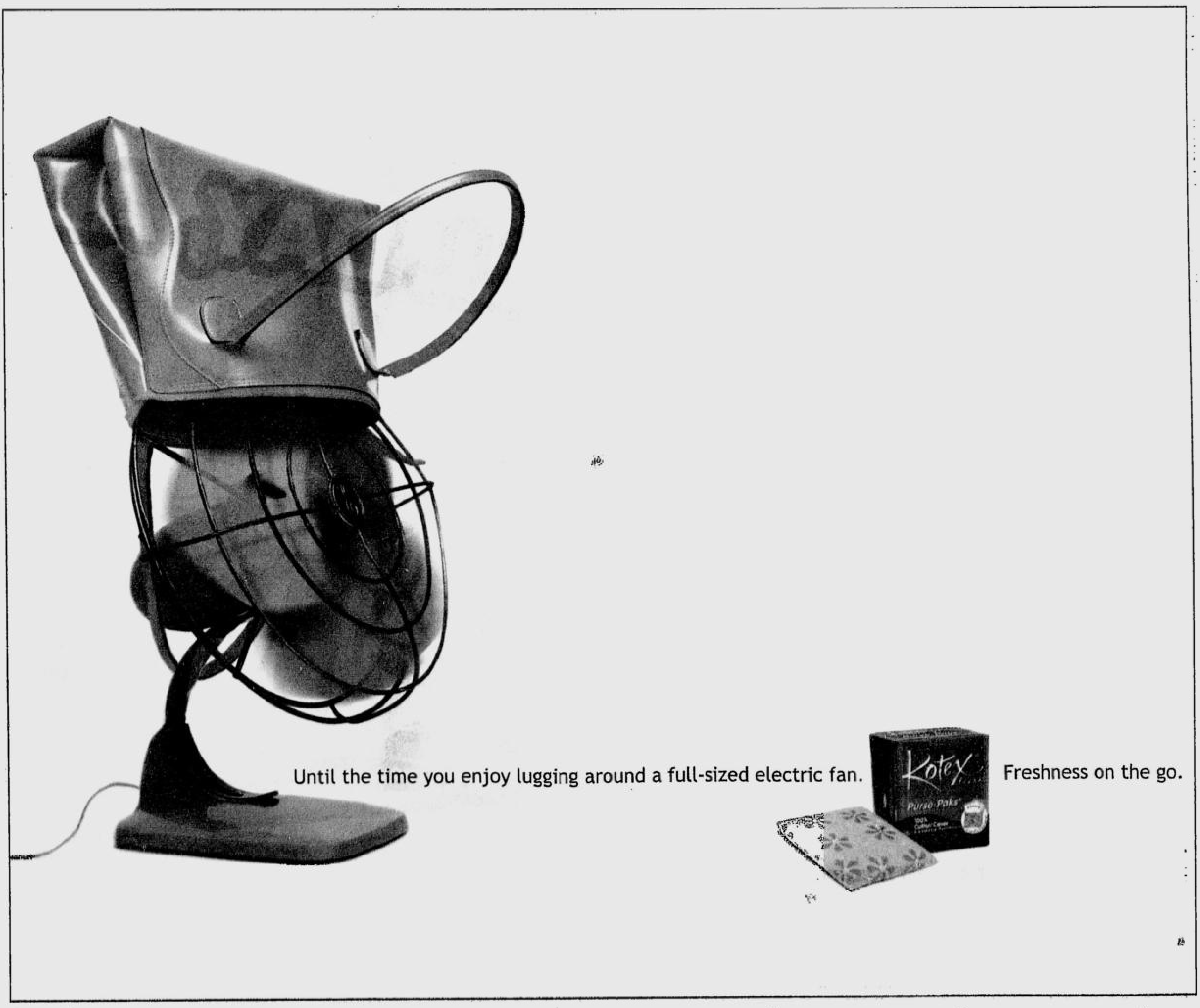
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Designing women

Lulu Tan-Gan: Pinoys are very creative. *Ang kulang lang sa atin ay* branding. I think it is very important to be branded as artists more than as DH abroad

From page C3

MCS: I thought about that before. Why is it that there are some high-profile designers who get fried not for shows but other things, real things, like credit line and not delivering on time but they still continue having business?

When are you going to venture into RTW?

P: I'd like to get into RTW but probably not with formal or special-occasion clothing. I really want to design sleepwear.

Ah, like Natori.

P: (Smiles) Yes. Maybe in the future.

Sexy ones?

P: Sexy, probably practical. I want to target the young, something I would use myself.

MCS: I'm actually going to venture into designer children's clothes. I've two girls now and I've always wanted to get into fineries, more of an extension of what I'm doing, but more of, like, party clothes but for the 0-5 age.

Is there an association of designing women?

L: I don't think there is and I don't think there should be.

All designers are "women" *naman*. (Laughter) Is there just one designers' group?

L: There are several. In fact, they should be consolidated so I don't think we should have one for females now. As much as possible we would like to be more together.

P: We're all part of FDCP. The others are FDAP, YDG, FDG...

Who's the leader of this one?

L: The president this year is Randy Ortiz.

P: Lulu is our outgoing president.

L: I'm gone! (Laughter)

What problems is Randy inheriting from you? (Laughter)

L: They are not problems. They are projects, which they really have to continue because they assist the young designers. We provide the venue and the event for them to show their talents.

You've been working hard as a designer, what made you decide to put a lot of effort to promote the young designers?

L: I think there was nobody after my time. There was a vacuum. It's really not healthy not to help the younger generation. It's really a pity if your efforts as a good citizen do not contribute something to the country. It's not the personal success that should be important. In many areas in our own industry I think we should be helping each other. The only way to find all these talents is to provide the venue for the event. This project had been existing with another group, the FDG, to which I belonged before.

How many women designers are there?

L: I think there are a lot now.

And maybe because there are fashion schools already...

L: We can't really encourage schools to expand their fashion programs, that's another thing.

Do you have apprentices in your workforce?

L: Sometimes they apply, but not full time.

Filipino designers are always ahead of their time. I can name instances when you, guys, make something, either a collection or a piece, a year after or a month or a week, *biglang lalabas* globally.

MCS: I remember when Rajo and I went to Paris to compete in the Air France competition. Frederick (Peralta) who won the year before was there with us. We were so honored to be Filipinos. It was much-talked about because we had won and the year before that. That time we were competing in Asia with the Japanese, we kind of always were scared of the Japanese. That year they were actually *parang* excited to have met the Filipino designers.

How did you fare?

MCS: I placed, I think, fifth.

How did Rajo do?

MCS: It's one winner each country, from 1-12. During that time it was my entry that made it.

She's so nice. "It's one winner each country." (Laughter)

L: Pinoys are very creative. *Ang kulang lang sa atin ay* branding. I think it is very important to be branded as artists more than DH abroad, or more than the coconut trees and all that. Personally, I think it's important to work with the government. They need to understand our industry. That linkage is important.

Have you been able to get that support from the government?

L: So far they have been assisting us with competition but, uh, not enough. (Laughs) As an industry itself it's very, very weak.

How about fabric? Is that readily available here?

P: It's a frustration...

L: ... Since forever. (Laughs)

There are no suppliers or there are no manufacturers who want to invest in local fabrics?

L: Basically, yeah, because we don't have the agricultural basis to grow cotton; enough supply of cotton, silk, linen or whatever fibers that will make textile. We do import a lot.

MCS: That's probably why made-to-order is stronger than RTW. Like what Patrice was saying earlier, it makes the designer more resourceful or creative because since it's very limited, you will have to know how to treat it, how to embellish it, how to strip it. You'll just have to find different ways of using it because there's not much available.

L: You learn to become a magician. (Laughter)

What is the particular problem of RTW?

J: Competition is cheap. The imports from China, they're really unregulated. We don't know how it happens. If you compare our labor to labor in China, of course we're so much more expensive. It's cutthroat. It hurts a lot of the local RTW designers.

But how is it now compared to, like, two years ago?

J: Now we're better. It's good because we started in a kind of line that was difficult for the Filipinos to accept. Right now the acceptance is better because they see it on MTV. They're more experimental so it's better for us.

Who wears your clothes?

MT: Belinda of MTV.

J: Gisele Toengi...

So they're young and slim.

J: Yeah, they're young, slim and adventurous and they want to go out and be noticed.

You had a show before wherein you used real people in your collection. They ranged from the young to Maribel Dario... (Laughter)

J: Yeah, *kasi* sexy *si* Maribel.

L: You asked me if I'd mind being with the younger designers. (Laughter) *Ako* my inspiration is the youth also. It keeps me up to date. Without the youth you go backward.

(To Lulu) And they look up to you. They're telling me, even in Paris when you walk, people's heads would turn. (Cheers) It's really the time of the designer as superstar, a celebrity with a cult following.

P: I think sometimes there's a problem among Filipinos accepting there is an assigned value to the design. To them they think it's just fabric and labor. But the value of good design, *parang* for them it's something they get for free, something they can see in a magazine or copy from TV.

What was the worst criticism made about your clothes?
Mimi Tan: They asked if our clothes are *pang*-prostitute. (Laughter)

You have to educate them.

L: I guess, yeah. That's lack of...

P: Appreciation.

J: Sometimes they appreciate, but they don't want to pay for it. (Laughter)

P: Sometimes clients would consult with us and then they try to cajole you to design or sketch something during the first consultation, say, for a wedding, and then they take it to a *custorera* and have it made.

How do you deal with that?

MCS: I don't release until they've decided. Sometimes they think it's *mataray*, but I say it nicely, "Until you've decided I'd leave it here."

P: I've learned. I used to give out designs. After a while I started to wonder, how come they don't come back?

***Dinala na pala kay* Rajo. (Laughter)**

P: *Imposible* because he's more expensive. They'd take it to someone who'd do it for them for much less. To me, karma *na lang* will take care of that.

Who do you look up to among the designers?

All: Lulu Tan-Gan! (Cheers)

P: Among the males, Cesar Gaupo...

Look at Cesar, we have given him away.

L: Yeah. It's good for him, but... That's what I'm saying; there's lack of interest or investors in our own designers, in our own talents. It's not just fashion designers, I think even musicians, arts in general.

MCS: Pepito Albert for his vision and technical knowledge. Inno Sotto still. He's forever the pinnacle of classic at its best. I like Jojie Lloren. He has refinement in his execution, especially in his last show. I've always known that he has very good taste. Also, for inspiring a lot of people, for me it's Rajo. He makes people believe that, like him, their dreams can come true.

L: Very hardworking. I think it's a good example to the young designers because many wait for fame to come and they wonder why they are not like him. If you see how Rajo works, you'd understand why...I think he's very organized, too. He accepts a lot of clients and expands his business. He's good in marketing. He's an overall...

P: Box-office hit. (Laughter)

J: Jojie Lloren... There's a wealth of talent in the Philippines.

MT: Dennis Lustico, Paolo Raymundo.

How would you get the investors to invest in you?

P: I don't think they realize how much or what it can do to their business until they actually try it. So far none of them has taken the risk.

But wouldn't that also curtail your creativity, being answerable to someone else? Unlike when you're a one-woman team...

MCS: I think it can work both ways depending on what kind of line you're asked to be in charge of. I did that for a few years with Aria, which was business wear. Obviously, my design sense and sensibilities kind of leaned toward formal after-work... At first, yeah, it's nice to have a backer who would send you abroad to buy fabrics and all that. It doesn't really curtail you but in the end, you still want to go your own way, your own direction, although it's a good experience. It depends on what arrangement you have.

What if somebody says, "I'd put in money but you have to target this kind of market."

J: *Kailangan pa yata namin ni* Mimi *ng* family life. (Laughter) That's a problem, *eh*. When you're in this industry it's nearly your [entire] life. For us there's nothing more.

How about you, Lulu?

L: I have people with me, but I don't have investors. I'm facing the same thing. I guess that's also the structure of the country. If you want to make it you have to be entrepreneurial at the same time. We don't have the structure of the first world, more middle class so more professionals, then you would have investors who would invest on professionals and talents. Here you have to be an entrepreneur to make it. You have to be all-around. It takes a lot of your creative time.

P: It's not enough to be creative. You have to be a wise businessman as well.

L: I think what the businessmen probably should think about now is investing in talents because today to sell fashion is product development and marketing. In manufacturing almost everybody has reached that high quality in terms of technology because you can subcontract in other countries. You can work with the best suppliers here, but what's needed is just to brand. A local label needs a talent to add value to the design. A wise businessman would invest in a talent and upgrade his brand. Today is the time to do it. The turn of fashion now is going back to craft. This is the time for designers to take advantage of creating. Minimalism is out and it depends on how much good material and good workmanship. Deconstruction is in, holes are in, anything can be in. It's how you package. It's really the investor who makes the public. He creates the market.

Where will all these fashion graduates go?

L: There are a lot of exporters also who are starting to close, but there are also many new entrepreneurs... Maybe there'll be a change in the next few years. Though retailing is not as good in the fashion industry there are so many shows. And even the schools we visited last year, they have started to expand their fashion curriculum because they noticed that there are more students inquiring in the past few years.

The recent Fashion Week, did that do something?

J: We joined that. It was mostly the big imported brands, people who can buy the show that got into it. The big brands had to buy a show. That's always a problem, funding.

L: You see, although there are so many activities, it seems that they're not leading to the advantage of the fashion sector. A fashion industry consists of the designers, the manufacturers, the exporters, the retailers. If we're close together we can work on a lot of programs, like, as you said, to educate the consumers. It will also give us one voice, to come up with projects with the government to achieve our goal. It has to be a nationwide educational program or campaign.

(To Juliet and Mimi) Who does what between the two of you?

J: We collaborate on designs. Mimi does the physical work. She's the fabric cutter and production. I do the paperwork. She finished interior design at the Assumption. Me *naman* on the business side.

So did you go to business school?

J: La Salle. When I was starting and wanted to go into business, I went to different seminars. One of the seminars I attended was the one given at Philtrade and Lulu was the speaker. I was very inspired. (Cheers) That was back in the '80s! When you take a business course you don't really understand the garment business until you're really there. From there I learned how to do costing.

L: In our council we actually give seminars.

P: It's really best that we learn from each other.

Do you share notes about clients?

P: Sometimes. Even suppliers. We share

DESIGNING/ p.C7

Years before, Mimi and Juliet Tan told me, 'When you're in an industry like ours, we cannot reveal our age.' (Laughter)
Michi: In my case it's my weight I won't reveal. (Laughter)
Lulu: I'd give my weight, but not my age. (Laughter)
Juliet Tan: I've always told people it's a trade secret

PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

Designing women

From page C6

fabrics...

So you don't really need, like, a cooperative. You already do that.

P: Text *lang*. (Laughs) Can I add something? *Kasi* sometimes I get first-time clients who bring their mothers and the mothers start to question you, like where did you study, do you know how to cut, things like that. They get disappointed if you didn't study at Parsons or FIT. To me they should at least give credit if you have enough experience. Although, of course, education is very important. As soon as they hear that you're self-taught and you just took a course here in the Philippines, to them you can't charge them this much.

L: It's just her announcement (chuckles) so next time those who ask those questions, don't knock on her door. (Laughter)

P: I hear other [young] designers [complain] also. They compare us with established designers.

L: We should start to put out some guidelines. (Laughter) "Made-to-order clients, please do and don't...!"

Who are your dream clients?

MT: Maybe for makeover, Judy Ann Santos. (Laughter) And maybe Regine Velasquez.

J: I'd like to dress up Joyce Jimenez because I think she's really sexy and pretty.

MCS: I think it's easy to say someone who's glamorous and rich and famous, but earlier in the day I saw a spread of Aiza Seguerra in Mega because my sister told me to look at it. She did the makeup. Aiza actually looked fresh and pretty. I said, maybe if I did something for her without trying to change her identity, something a bit more, not necessarily feminine, but something refreshing for her.

P: Uhm, Piolo Pascual. (Laughter) Dress? Not undress? (Laughter) Sarah Meier. Borgy *na rin*.

L: I dream more of the average [person] because probably my orientation is RTW so it's more of a particular market, those women who travel who have very active lifestyle. But I think it's very challenging to dress up Malou Fernandez, which I've done before. I haven't done it for some time. She's a nice personality to dress up because of her attitude; she's quite daring. I think I should give her a call. (Laughter)

Maybe she will call you after this.

P: And Piolo will call me? (Laughter)

L: I'd love to dress up Jennifer Aniston so I can meet Brad Pitt. (Laughter)

What's your dream project this year?

J: A book on street clothes.

P: For me a fashion mission in maybe all the places that I want to go to, like Vietnam, Shanghai, India.

You're gonna study also, *di ba*?

P: I'm planning to. (Smiles) *Baka sabihin pina*-publicize.

MCS: Mine is launching the designer children's wear for girls.

It would be good if you could revive the children's dresses. Did we stop exporting those?

MCS: There are still some but it's kind of slow.

L: Uncompetitive, *eh*. In terms of export, our labor and cost are a lot higher than other countries. Not just China but Sri Lanka...

MCS: I'll do it locally first. I'll see how the market is.

L: The local market is good.

What about bad practices by other designers? We've heard of horror stories like people who don't deliver on time...

L: I don't think you can generalize. It happens also with other businesses.

MCS: Yeah. We have schedules. I've never made *bitin* anybody and I tell them usually, like, a week before. The client would ask outright about my fitting schedules, and then they'd tell me those horror stories. I assure them it won't happen here. So far *hindi naman*.

***Kasi* sometimes there's a schedule then when the client goes, the designer is not there, or is too busy to attend to the client.**

MCS: It's as simple as, if you don't deliver you don't get paid. We run a business...

L: That's also the weak side of a designer who also has an artist's temper, or practice not on a professional basis.

Complete the sentence: "The best thing about being in the Philippine fashion industry is..."

J: Well, it's our living. It pays us well.

L: I think it's still fun to dress up Filipinos in general. There's this Latin temper. Filipinos are vain; they're not conservative. Well, conservative in taste but not conservative in spending (laughter) on something that would make them beautiful, which has to do with clothes, cosmetics. I think that's the nice part about working in the Philippines—you live in a country that appreciates beauty, and you might not have a house but have a nice outfit. (Laughter) It's favorable for us.

J: I think it's only our culture where *itong okasyon* I have to get something new, each occasion.

L: It's a vain society. It has a vain culture. So it's quite healthy. (Laughs)

MCS: We're saying, here you have to set up on your own to make it. I think the nice thing about Philippine fashion, when you do that—I might speak for everyone else—you're kind of like out of the rat race because there's so much independence and freedom. Freedom in the sense *na* there's financial freedom, there's freedom of time, freedom to develop yourself in other ways. You hold the keys to managing your own business and your own life in general. I love that about living here.

P: The best part about being in Philippine fashion is, like Lulu mentioned earlier, you have to love it so much. We all love it so much that's why we're in this business, and it pays well. You're doing something that you love and at the same time, it is financially rewarding. Aside from that—for made-to-order—you develop relationships with our clients *na* beyond professional. We become friends.

MCS: We give people jobs.

How many do you employ?

P: I have 15.

MCS: Me, less than 10.

***Naku si* Lulu! (Laughter)**

Lulu: I just have around 50. I do a lot of subcontracting.

J: Us, 15.

I asked Mimi and Juliet years before *pa* when we were going out, "How old are you, guys, *ba*?" They told me, "When you're in an industry like ours, we cannot reveal our age." (Laughter)

MCS: In my case it's my weight I won't reveal. (Laughter)

L: I'd give my weight, but not my age. (Laughter)

J: I've always told people it's a trade secret.

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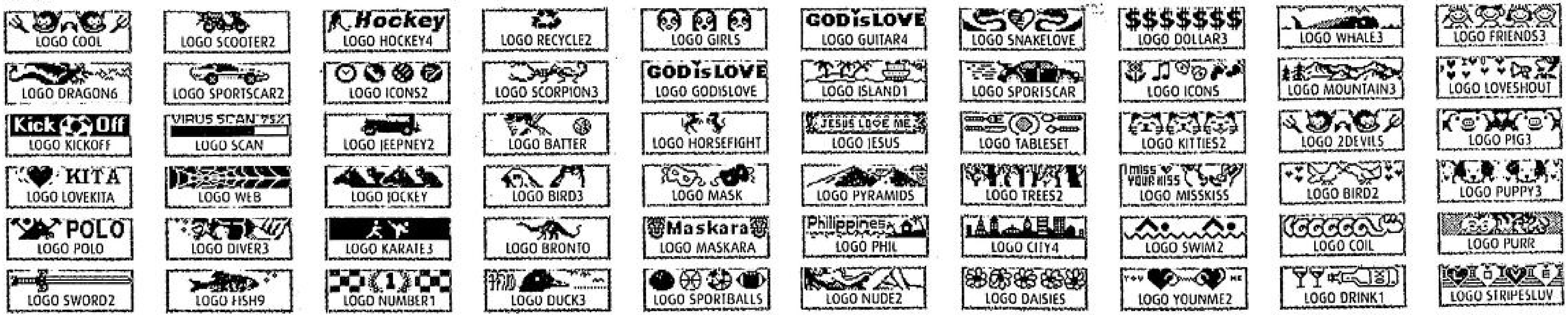
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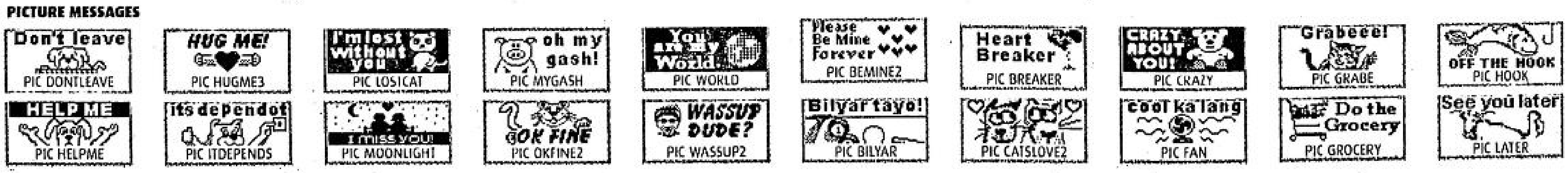
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2 Send to 288.

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3 Start playing or get the first question by sending **WC** to 288.

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For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday **LIFESTYLE**

Everything I need to know I learned in fourth grade

By Margarita Liboro Delgado
Contributor

If someone wants to believe evil of you, no amount of protesting your innocence is going to change that

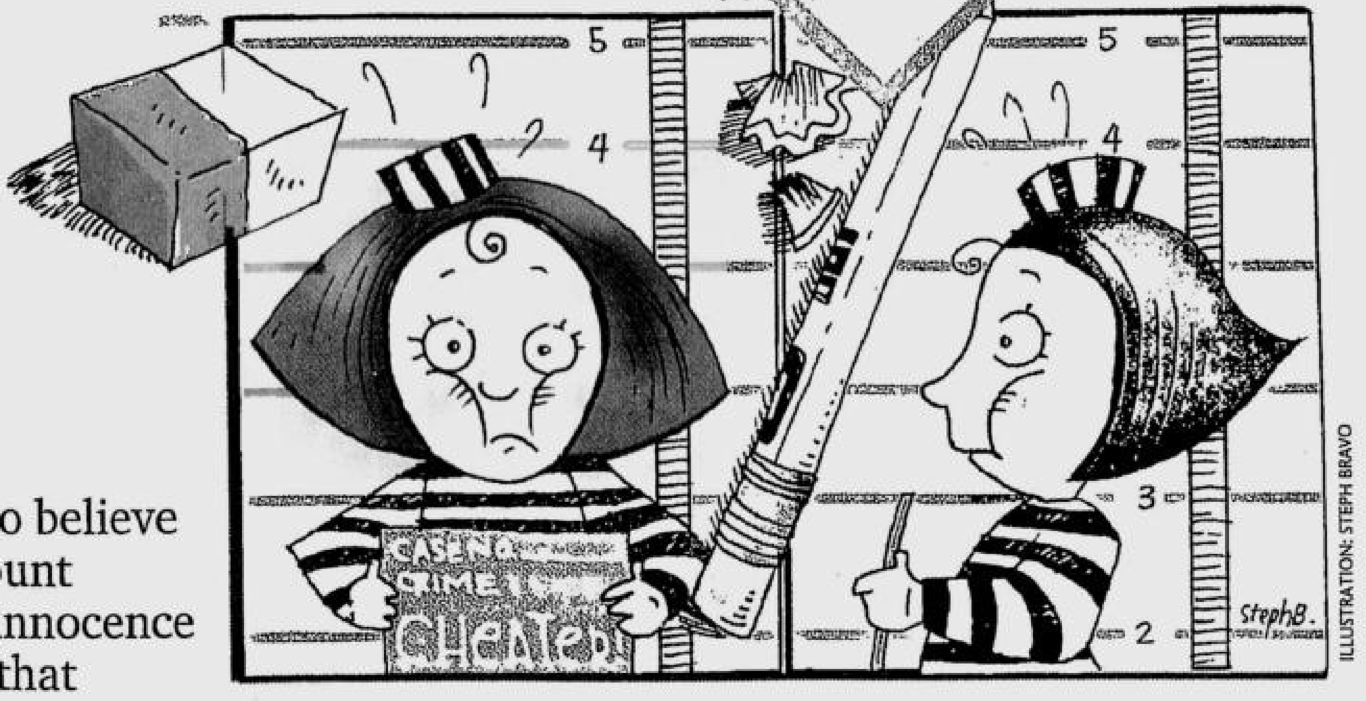

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

AS a reaction to a very strict father, who expected best behavior at home, I was a very talkative and excitable fourth-grade student.

My mother could never figure out the phenomenon of a very quiet, self-contained, well-behaved daughter in the house who constantly got terrible marks for conduct in school. Unfortunately, whatever was repressed at home spilled out in the classroom.

I suppose, in retrospect, this was extremely irritating to a teacher like Ms C.R. who was trying to get all her lesson plans accomplished within a tight time frame. Needless to say, I was the teacher's pet peeve.

I was normally asked to stand at the back of the classroom, and when all else failed, I was made to stand on top of a desk that was strategically placed right outside the classroom door, in the hallway, so I could pretend to be the class banner when all the students came out for recess. Of course, I would pretend this was the most normal place for any student to be as I furrowed my brow in mock concentration and listened to the teacher's lecture through the open doorway.

One day Ms C.R. gave us a long test. We prepared for this the whole week. This was serious business. As she handed out the test papers, she fixed me with a glaring evil eye as she warned everyone in the class to look only at their papers and not to copy from their seatmates. We all studied very hard, and I guess we all expected to do well. C'mon, at Grade 4, this was not rocket science!

As I raced through the test paper, I was supremely confident I was going to ace this test. I knew the answers and after the first few numbers, I was on a roll. As I proudly handed in my paper, I relished having been one of the early birds. What a genius! I smugly watched as my peers struggled and despaired over their answers. I hummed a tune and arrogantly slouched on my seat to show that I had not a care in the world. (Remember, this was the pride before the fall.)

Accused

At the end of the period, as she collected the remaining test papers, she announced in her shrill, no-nonsense voice: "I believe there has been some cheating during this test. But I cannot prove it and I cannot say who it is. But whoever it is, better watch out because your grade will reflect this. The class can now go to recess."

Of course, we all turned our heads to look at each other, curious to know *who* was responsible for this dastardly act. Whisper... whisper... Who would dare? Speculate... speculate.

As we stood up and moved toward the door, I heard this same shrill voice say, "Margarita, please stay behind. I want to talk to you about the test."

Deathly silence. Accusing stares. Space formed around me as if I was a pariah. Whisper. Whisper. No speculation now. Knowing nods.

I felt embarrassment wash over me in ice-cold, tidal-wave proportions. I cringed as I turned around to face this accusing adult who had pretty much condemned me in front of my peers. I was a 10-year-old who did not know any better in terms of defending herself. She asked me if I had cheated because I had finished the test too quickly for her peace of mind. I told her, no. I didn't need to cheat as I knew the answers. She said she didn't believe me. I kept my silence because I did not know what else to say. And as I turned to leave the classroom, I saw my classmates huddled at the door, listening to this exchange. The doubt in their faces was clearly etched for me to see.

Defining moment

For me, it was a defining moment that I appreciated only as the years went by and as maturity allowed me to view it dispassionately.

What lessons did I learn from this incident?

- Adults are not always rational. The sooner one accepts this, the easier it will be to deal with the world in general because one stops attempting to measure people with one's own yardstick.
- If someone wants to believe evil of you, no amount of protesting your innocence is going to change that. So move on with your life because it isn't really your problem. It's his or hers.
- You must learn to stand on your own feet because when the chips are down, you only have yourself to rely on. The few who stick with you are the exceptions and are special blessings.
- When you have something to say, say it straight. Beating around the bush confuses the issue and may give the wrong impression to people.
- Be clear about what is right and what is wrong. Try and be honest about your motives. In the end, you have yourself to answer to when you face that mirror every morning.

Yes, today I can appreciate Ms C.R. because at the tender age of 10, she started me on the path to the real world.

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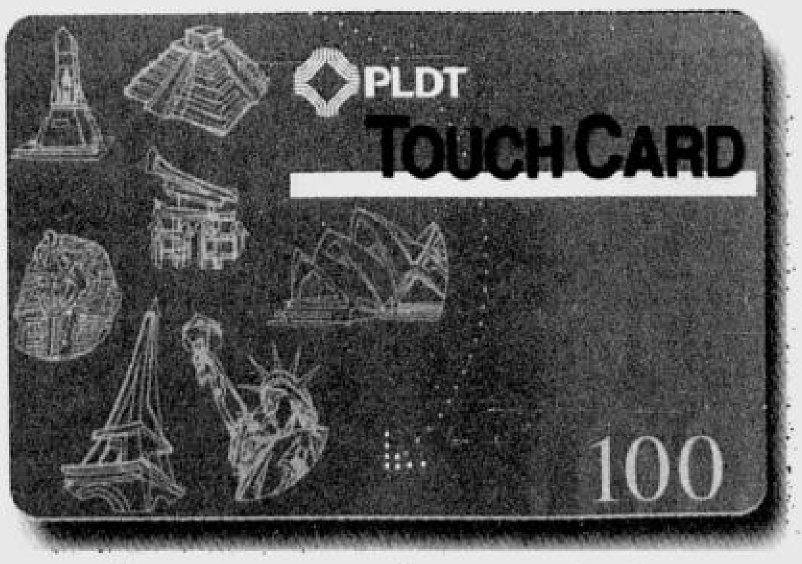

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ABS-CBN school makes learning a joy

GINA Lopez, managing director of ABS-CBN Foundation, set up the ABS-CBN Children's Center in 1997 as she wanted a school readily accessible to the network's employees.

With its homey, nontraditional ambience, the center seemed like a second home to students.

"We started with 28, and now we have 120 students," says Maricar Estole, school administrator.

Majority of the students are children of network and foundation employees, but lately the number of "outsiders" has grown. Estole explains that employees pay discounted rates.

AN ALTERNATIVE school where children are happier...

...AND more productive in a healthier and less stressful environment.

One great advantage of the school, says Estole, is the limited number of students. With only 15 or at most 20 per class, Estole says instruction is individualized.

"We are able to observe and assess their [students] progress on an individual basis," she adds.

A child having difficulty with a particular subject automatically gets one-on-one tutoring.

The curriculum, Estole points out, is EQ-oriented. Value formation is also an integral part of the program.

"Unlike academics, values and EQ cannot be measured in report cards," she says. "We at the center would like to believe that when the children leave us, they bring with them every priceless lessons they have learned."

But the school believes nothing can be achieved without help from the parents.

"This is why we're very open. Parents can talk to us anytime," says Estole.

She adds that the roles of parents and teachers are clearly defined, so it would not do for one to assume the responsibilities of the other. The school official believes no school can succeed without the support and cooperation of parents.

But Estole also stresses that teachers make the school, so the center requires nothing short of excellence from its 12 faculty members, though a master's degree is optional.

To ensure that the stringent requirements are met, Estole says that before a teacher is hired, the Center first tries to observe how he or she behaves and interacts with children.

The center considers itself an alternative school and measures its impact on children by asking the question: Are they happy?

"A good indicator that they are," says Estole, "is that our students like going to school. They enjoy coming here. They don't have to be coerced."

In June, the center will start offering classes in Grade 1.

"The plan is to add another level every year, up to the sixth grade. This is in compliance with the parents' request for continuity," Estole says.

As part of its expansion plan, the center is moving to a bigger place with better facilities in September or October this year. Estole says the new place will have a bigger playground, bigger library, workshop, a laboratory and a music area. A violin teacher has been hired for those interested.

The new location will still be near the network and the foundation.

Estole says the center aims to be an alternative school where children will be happier and more productive in a healthier and less stressful environment.

She is confident the goal can be achieved because the center is not profit-oriented and education is a service and a commitment.

Learning the 3Rs does not guarantee success

PREPARING children to become future leaders is not easy. Children not only have to learn skills and core disciplines but they also have to be able to use their knowledge meaningfully.

This was stressed by Joy Canon-Abaquin, directress of the Child's Place Pre-School and the Multiple Intelligence (MI) International School for grade schoolers, two institutions that adhere to the principles of the MI framework designed by educator-theoretician Howard Gardner of Harvard University. (Gardner first published the MI theory in 1983. It is the current buzzword in education in the US and other countries, including the Philippines.)

The MI theory holds that individuals possess eight intelligences—linguistic, logical-mathematical, musical, spatial, bodily kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal and naturalist.

Canon-Abaquin said intelligence had always been equated with the concept of the intelligence quotient (IQ). While possibly a good predictor of school success, it was not always a good predictor of success in life.

Gardner found that a child, who might be weak in some disciplines, might be strong in other areas that would allow him or her to be successful.

Abaquin noted that most local schools were still very traditional in approach, being teacher-centered. She said education should be more child-centered. More "individual-centered schools" would allow education to be more relevant to students.

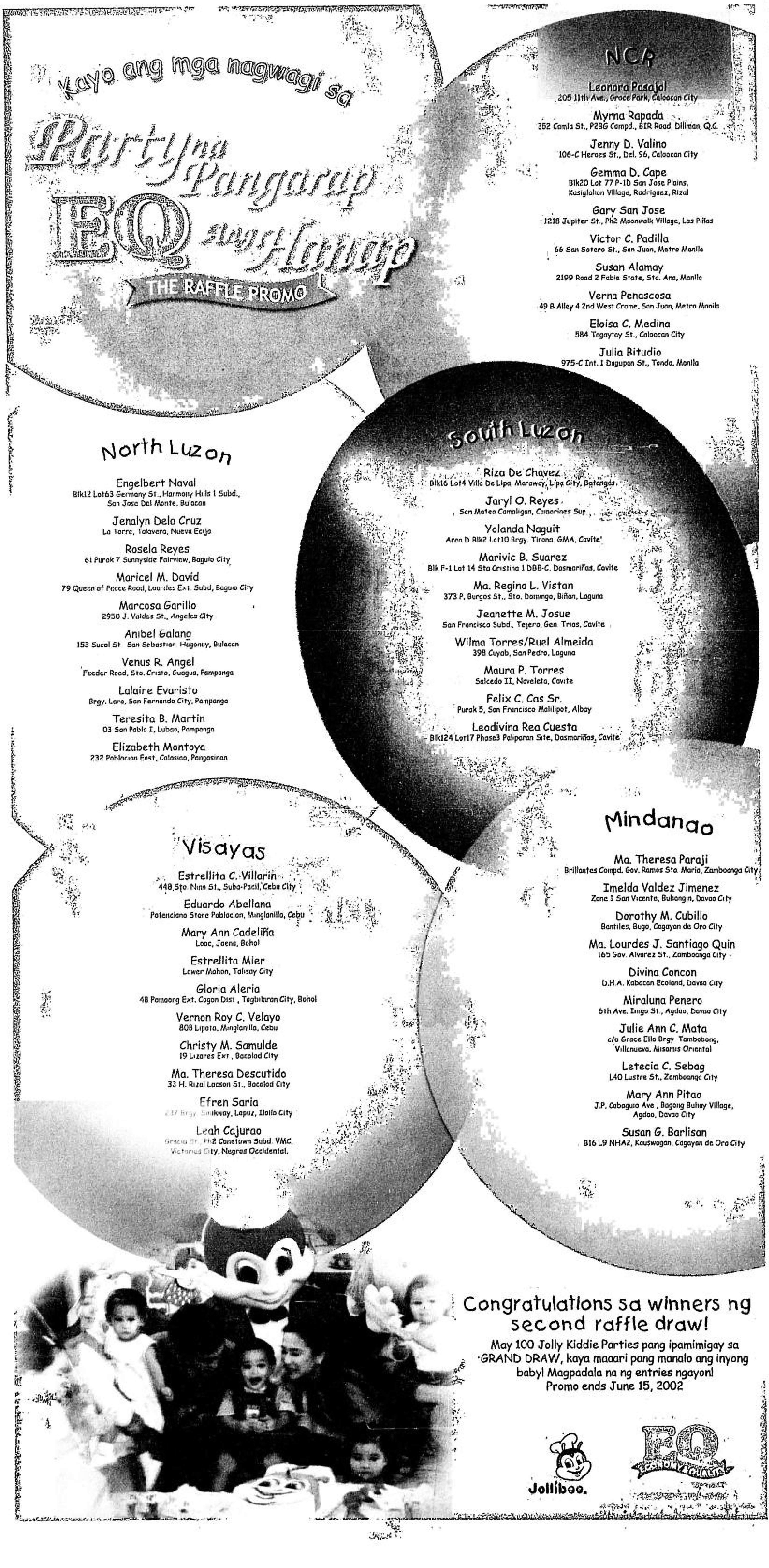
Child's Place and MI International School teach through the eight intelligences.

At the MI International School, a strong home-school program gives parents opportunities to volunteer and share their own intelligences and in the process understand how to build on their children's strengths.

Child's Place and Multiple Intelligence School are located at 4 Escaler St., Loyola Heights, QC (tel. 433-4949 or 928-0143).

PHILIPPINE history comes alive as People Smart first graders work together in depicting Spanish colonization.

REPRESENTATIVES of various Ministries of Education from Southeast Asian neighbors—Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Singapore and Hong Kong—visit the first MI school in the Philippines to learn from each other. At extreme right (standing) is Joy Abaquin.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106-C Heroes St., Del. 96, Caloocan City

Gemma D. Cape
Blk20 Lot 77 P-1D San Jose Plains,
Kasiglahan Village, Rodriguez, Rizal

Gary San Jose
1218 Jupiter St., Ph2 Moonwalk Village, Las Piñas

Victor C. Padilla
66 San Sotero St., San Juan, Metro Manila

Susan Alamay
2199 Road 2 Fabie State, Sta. Ana, Manila

Verna Penascosa
49 B Alley 4 2nd West Crame, San Juan, Metro Manila

Eloisa C. Medina
584 Tagaytay St., Caloocan City

Julia Bitudio
975-C Int. I Dagupan St., Tondo, Manila

North Luzon

Engelbert Naval
Blk12 Lot63 Germany St., Harmony Hills I Subd.,
San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

Jenalyn Dela Cruz
La Torre, Talavera, Nueva Ecija

Rosela Reyes
61 Purok 7 Sunnyside Fairview, Baguio City

Maricel M. David
79 Queen of Peace Road, Lourdes Ext. Subd, Baguio City

Marcosa Garillo
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Anibel Galang
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Lalaine Evaristo
Brgy. Lara, San Fernando City, Pampanga

Teresita B. Martin
03 San Pablo I, Lubao, Pampanga

Elizabeth Montoya
232 Poblacion East, Calasiao, Pangasinan

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Blk16 Lot4 Villa De Lipa, Maraway, Lipa City, Batangas

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Area D Blk2 Lot10 Brgy. Tirona, GMA, Cavite

Marivic B. Suarez
Blk F-1 Lot 14 Sta Cristina 1 DBB-C, Dasmariñas, Cavite

Ma. Regina L. Vistan
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Blk124 Lot17 Phase3 Paliparan Site, Dasmariñas, Cavite

Visayas

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Mary Ann Cadeliña
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Estrellita Mier
Lower Mohon, Talisay City

Gloria Aleria
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808 Lipata, Minglanilla, Cebu

Christy M. Samulde
19 Lizares Ext., Bacolod City

Ma. Theresa Descutido
33 H. Rizal Lacson St., Bacolod City

Efren Saria
237 Brgy. Sinikway, Lapuz, Iloilo City

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Gracia St., Ph2 Canetown Subd. VMC,
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Congratulations sa winners ng second raffle draw!

May 100 Jolly Kiddie Parties pang ipamimigay sa GRAND DRAW, kaya maaari pang manalo ang inyong baby! Magpadala na ng entries ngayon!
Promo ends June 15, 2002

Jollibee.
EQ ECONOMY & QUALITY

Pizza place has new treat for kids

CALIFORNIA Pizza Kitchen (CPK) has a new special offer for members of CPKids. Beginning June 10, members will not only get free CPKids meal with a choice of pizza or pasta, milk or soda, plus a dessert treat, but also free goodies at Tequila Joe's and Buddies.

At Tequila Joe's, members can get free N' Fries and the chance to bring home cute TJ's Joe the Worm dolls. Tequila Joe's has branches at El Pueblo in Ortigas, Glorietta 4 in Makati and Alabang Town Center.

Buddies treats CPKids to a choice of childhood favorites such as hamburger and spaghetti. Buddies has outlets at the Millennium Place in Ortigas, Glorietta 3 in Makati and the Alabang Town Center.

Kids 10 years old and below can join CPKids. They may send their name, address, birthday, age and e-mail address to the California Pizza Kitchen head office, 22/F Antel Global Corporate Center, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or to any CPK branch.

CPK has branches at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Glorietta 3 and Alabang Town Center. Soon to open is CPK Tomas Morato.

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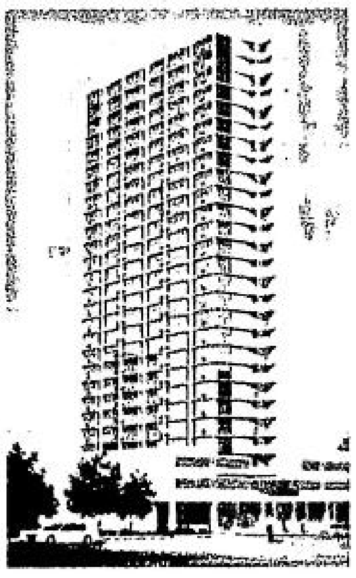

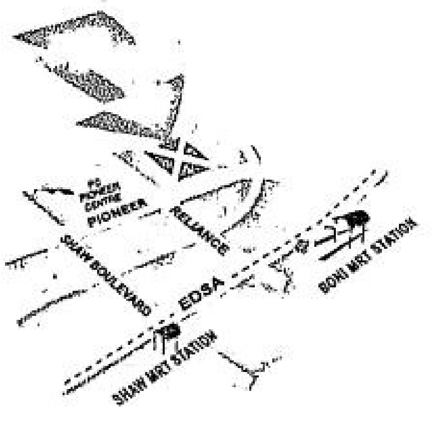

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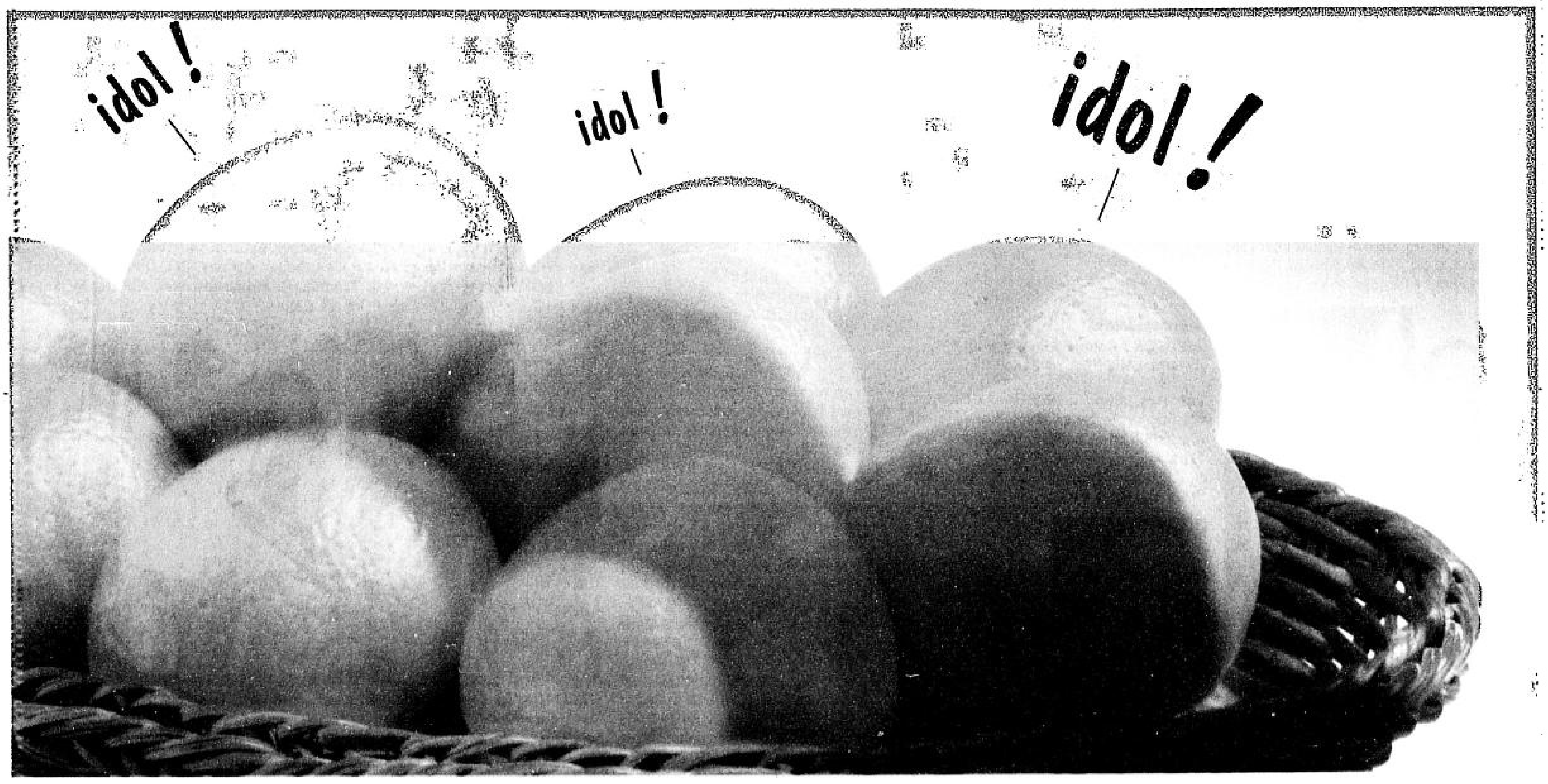


A special way of caring

By Constantino C. Tejero

A garden graced with a glass-sculpture fountain by Impy Pilapil and a sculpture by Manuel Baldemor makes for a great memory place

THE AFTERLIFE has never looked as state-of-the-art as this.

Anyone who feels squeamish about the subject would be in for a surprise upon seeing the artist's sketch plan of the architectural design and landscaping of Caelum, a place for memorialization that will soon occupy a 4,265 sq m lot along Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

Designed by British architectural firm RMJM in consultation with a feng-shui expert, the place is elevated 4½ m above street level, providing a scenic view. It has a sprawling garden with walkways and pathways, shade trees, manicured grass and plants, aluminum trellis for green vines. The garden is graced with a glass-sculpture fountain by Impy Pilapil and a sculpture by Manuel Baldemor.

Containing the memorial niches are three rectangular curving structures painted white. The exterior walls are mounted with light fixtures. The structures are fitted with aluminum cutouts to simulate trees, and metal louvers, column capital as light fixtures, and double-height colonnade as sunscreen. There are precast concrete-metal bowls for accent plants.

The interior has strip light, halogen wall-washers for artworks, and indirect fluorescent lighting. The flooring is of nonporous granite. Each structure is climate-controlled and provided with elevators. Interior spaces are connected to the garden.

The elegant and imposing church, shaped like a bishop's miter, is also painted white but with strips of blue. Its dome is covered with mosaic tiles, and it has stained-glass portions allowing sunlight to stream in. It holds regular church service.

Happy souls

The project was launched and the groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 14.

There will be three phases of construction, with the church and garden to be finished in 1½ years. To follow are two low-rise buildings, a Buddhist temple and a museum meant for the memorabilia of the departed.

The inspiration came in late 1998, when Bishop Rafael Lim of Marinduque, a few hours before he suddenly died, drafted a letter of request to Presidential Adviser Roberto Aventajado. In it the bishop asked for help to build a monastery for the Poor Sisters of St. Clare in Boac, and to set up a scholarship fund for those aspiring for the priesthood, and retirement and health benefits for retiring priests.

A few years later, and out of government service, Aventajado put up Jardin de Paradiso Properties, Inc., which he chairs. Together with a few associates, they conceptualized this columbarium, dubbed as Caelum, Latin for "heaven," The Home of Happy Souls.

After the intense heat of the crematorium has reduced the body to ashes weighing about 10 lbs, the cremains are put into an 8" x 6" x 4" container and placed in a 12" x 12" x 24" niche. The niche can accommodate four urns, or one box of bone remains.

Columbarium, derived from the Latin term for "dovecot," refers to this structure of vaults lined with recesses for cinerary urns, or the recess itself.

Waterproof and corrosion-free, the niche has a removable nonporous granite cover, its interior lined with powder-coated aluminum. Secured with a cast-aluminum screw of floral design, it is furnished with a brass or bronze nameplate and a flower holder.

For the living

In Caelum, a niche costs P15,000, an urn goes for P2,000, and with P9,000 for cremation and P30,000 for memorial service, that totals P56,000.

The total package depends, however on the location of the interment space in the columbarium, whether on a wall or in the garden zone, the garden circle, the church podium, the second floor or the penthouse of the church, and whether it is on lower ground, at eye level, semi-high or high. The cost can reach up to P171,000.

Caelum is only a repository for the remains of the departed. The developer has done away with the crematorium since the place is located right at the center of the memorial district of the city, where memorial services are readily available.

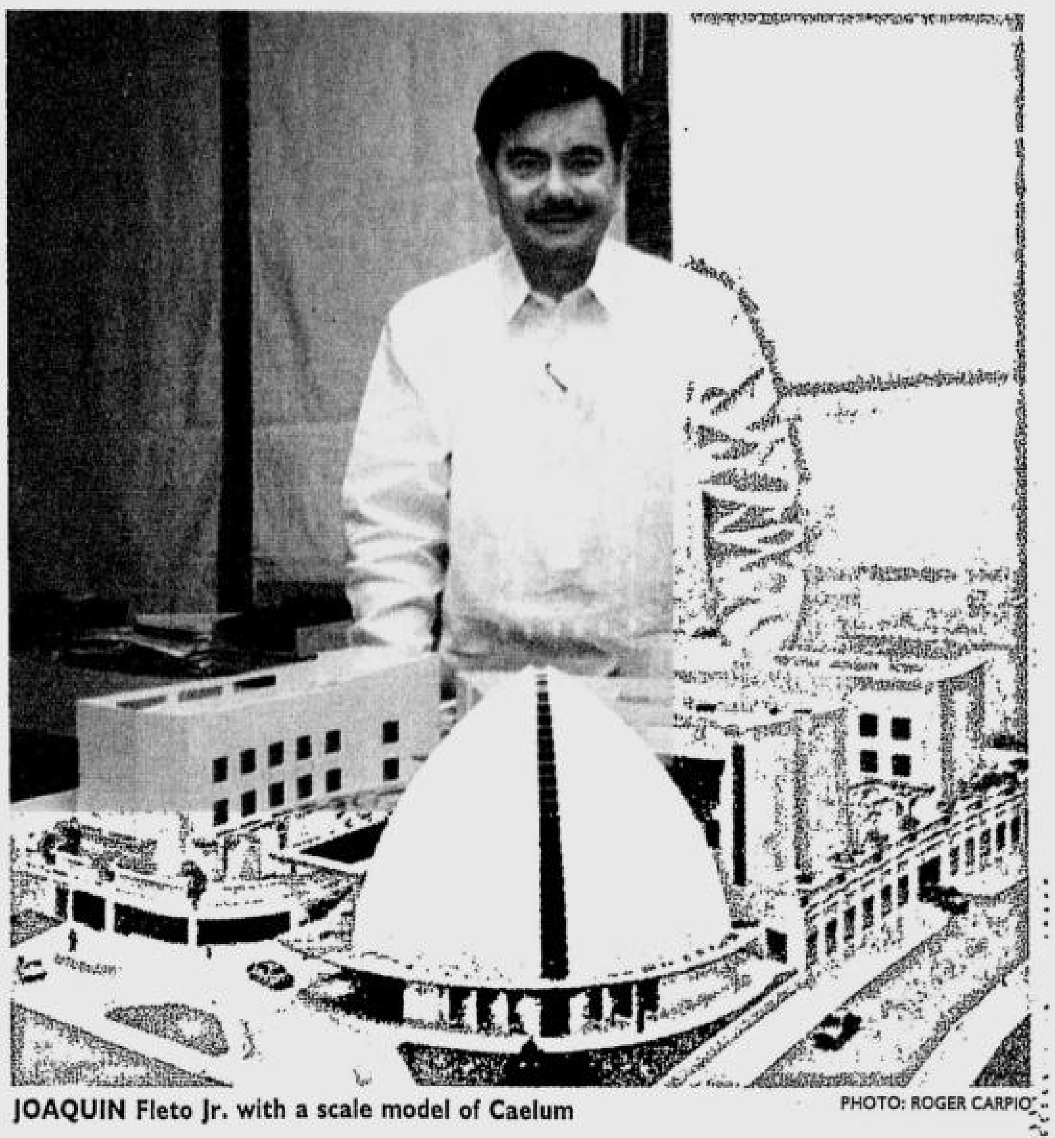
It has a memorial care fund for continuous maintenance, and interfaith chapels for all religions. It also has a Website through which services can be availed of.

The place has a sales and administration office, a store for religious items such as cards and flowers, several function rooms, a coffee shop, and parking space for 200 cars.

The columbarium system has definite advantages such as: no digging and related problems; ease of transportation for ceremonial disposition; more attractive facilities, with gardens attracting animal and bird life; very little monument maintenance; no grave concern over land pollution from body fluids leaching into underground water tables.

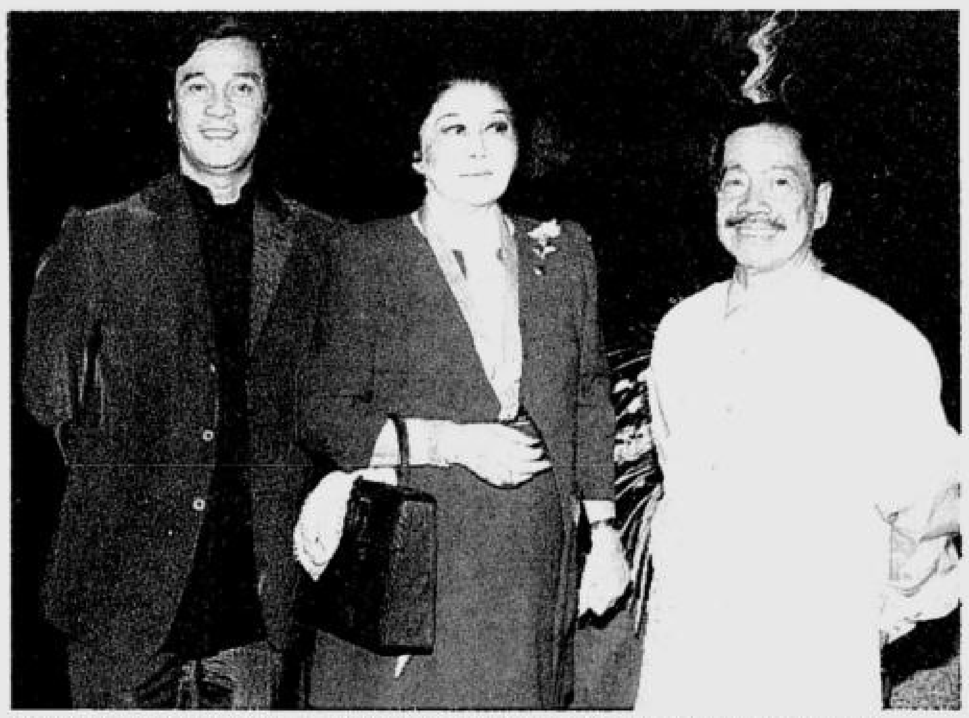
"We're in the caring industry, not only for the dead, conscious *din kami sa* living," says Jardin de Paradiso president Joaquin Fleta Jr. "With this new concept, we're also giving more dignity to the living. It's more economical, with less land use, no soil degradation, no environmental pollution, and without the stress and hassle of a long wake, funeral and burial."

With this 21st-century way of memorialization, Fleta jests that this part of the city that's called Death Row may soon be dubbed Redemption Road.



JOAQUIN Fleto Jr. with a scale model of Caelum

PHOTO: ROGER CARPIO



FORMER First Lady Imelda Marcos flanked by Bobby Caballero and Ronnie Alejandro

May dance with Ronnie Alejandro and friends

THE PROLIFIC Reynaldo Gamboa Alejandro launched his latest book, this time in collaboration with Amanda Abad Santos-Gana, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines to a "Sayawan sa Mayo" celebration.

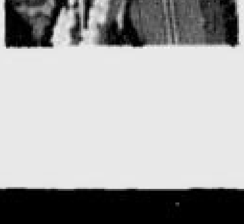
As is befitting a book titled "Sayaw: Philippine Dances," the evening show was graced by Ballet Philippines, Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company, DanceSport Council of the Philippines, Kaloob Philippine Music and Dance Ministry, Philippine Ballet Theater, Powerdance, Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group and Villa Escudero Dance Troupe.

Chaired by Imelda O. Cojuangco, the "Sayawan sa Mayo" Comite de Festejos is a list of luminaries, such as former First Lady Imelda Marcos, Mellie Ablaza, Helena Benitez, Rachy Cuna, Ado Escudero, Ben Farrales, Sony Lopez-Gonzales, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Nene Leonor, Pitoy Moreno, Marietta Santos, Leticia Shahani and Letty Syquia.

The book is published by National Book Store and Anvil Publishing, Inc.

AUTHORS Ronnie Alejandro and Amanda Abad Santo-Gana

BLUE LADIES. Verna Lomotan and Ping Valencia



LETTY Shahani

Ballet school presents dance recital today

THE SHIRLEY Halili Cruz School of Ballet, which was recently named "Most Outstanding Ballet School in Asia," will present its ballet students in another grand dance recital titled "Dance... Dance...Dance!" today at the Meralco Theater.

The culminating activity of the school's Summer Dance Workshop 2002, the recital will have two performances: 3 p.m. for Cast A&C and 7:30 p.m. for Cast B&C.

The production was prepared in two weeks by the school's artistic staff headed by former ballerina now artistic director Shirley Halili Cruz, who received recently the "2001 Most Outstanding Filipina of the World in Arts and Culture" award.

The artistic staff is composed of outstanding graduates of the school, who were also named as 2000-2001 "World Class Achievers." They are Grace Geralde and Anna Lissa Tuazon, ballet teachers and choreographers; Anna Kathrina Cruz and Cookee Balahadia, ballet teachers; Gwen Siy, restager of the classics; and Iris Aviguetero, jazz teacher. Guest choreographer is Tony Fabella, who will premiere his new choreographies "Padayaw," "A Verdi," and "Weber Variations."

Dance classes for school year 2002-2003 will start June 8. Audition for scholarship is on June 15.

The school's main studio is at 1227 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, telephone 372-4607 or 413-0804. The Shirley Halili-Cruz School of Ballet has branches at St. Mary's, Siena College, Marymount School, Colegio de Sto. Niño, School of St. Anthony, Academies Manila and Poveda.

BABY BALLERINAS. Seated, Nina Reyes, Bianca Briones, Ana San Pascual, Katie Tan, Yanna Sulaik and Agatha Belen. Standing, Rinzel Co, Kat Davies, Angel Lopez, Julia Almirante, Camille Ramirez and Tati Ganuelas

Entertainment appliance leader boosts badminton

JVC, THE household name in excellent entertainment equipment, together with IMG, the sports marketing company, is holding the 2nd JVC Open Badminton Championship, a six-day open tournament that begins June 3.

The tournament will have a series of qualifying bouts until June 5 at the PSC Badminton Hall.

It has three categories: Elite (Men's and Ladies' Singles, Men's and Ladies' Doubles, and Mixed Doubles), Youth (for teens 16 and below: Boys' Singles, Girls' Singles, Boys' Doubles, Girls' Doubles and Mixed Doubles), and Veterans (for adults 35 and up: Men's Doubles, Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles).

The main draw will be held at the Glorietta Activity Center on June 6-9.

The Elite Singles champion will get P10,000; the first and second runners-up will receive P7,500 and P1,500, respectively. The Elite Doubles champions will win P15,000; the runners-up will receive P10,000 and P2,000.

For the Youth category, the singles champion will get P4,000, and the runners-up, P3,000 and P1,000. The doubles champion will win P6,000, and the runners-up, P4,000 and P1,000. Special trophies and medals will be awarded to the winners of the Veterans category.

During the launching of the tournament recently at the Manila Polo Club, JVC Philippines' president and CEO Toshinori Yokokawa said JVC seeks to make badminton as popular as basketball in the Philippines.

GEM Padilla, JVC (Phils.), Inc. general manager Kazue Salud, POC president Celso Dayrit, PSC commissioner Cynthia Carrion, Phil. Badminton Association exec. VP Gen. Edgar Aglipay, JVC (Phils.), Inc. pres. and CEO Toshinori Yokokawa, Trademark Industries exec. VP Dennis Salud and IMG managing director Princess Galura

JVC
2002
June 3-
June 6-
PSC Badminton Hall
Activity Center

CEREMONIAL presentation of rackets from IMG and Phil. Badminton Association given to JVC (Phils.), Inc. for its continued support to badminton. From left, Toshinori Yokokawa, Gen. Edgar Aglipay, Kazue Salud, Dennis Salud and Princess Galura

Read all about Cebu in new magazine

CEBUANOS celebrated recently the launch of Cebu! magazine at the entertainment area of Ayala Center. Eager spectators filled the place almost an hour before the party started—all curious to find out what the magazine was all about.

Cebu! magazine is a bimonthly publication that serves as an in-depth guide to anything and everything that is Cebu City. It features places, politics, personalities, music, nightlife, culture and cuisine. It also highlights the unique qualities of the city and its potential as one of the best places in the world for both local and foreign tourists.

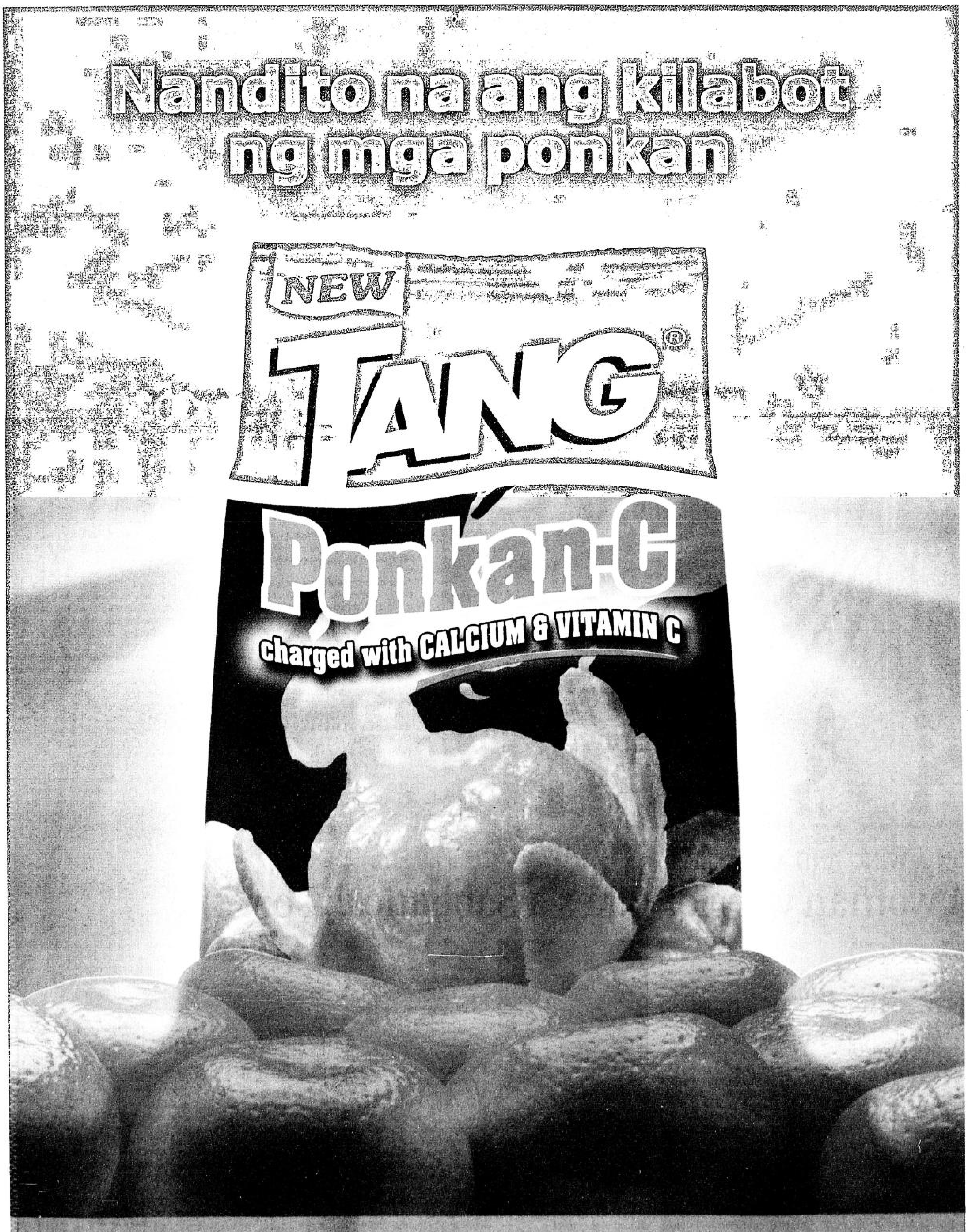
The event started with a fashion show featuring the beautiful outfits made by some of Cebu's top designers like Philip Rodriguez, Joy Bernaldes and Jun Escario. Former Miss Cebu Tourism winners Christine Inocencio-Aldeguer and Menchu Antigua hosted the party while Cebuana singer Pinky Marquez did classic tunes and Broadway hits. Local band Johnnie played upbeat music the whole evening. Blue and orange balloons accented the huge Cebu magazine backdrop on stage.

In an audio-visual presentation, Cebuanos expressed their appreciation and love for the place they call home.

Cebu! magazine publisher Jay Aldeguer meticulously checked every detail of the party to ensure that they were in keeping with the magazine's character and style. "Just like most Cebuanos, I have always been proud of Cebu," Aldeguer said. "It frustrates me to realize that there are a lot of well-traveled Filipinos and foreigners who do not really know how beautiful Cebu is. I believe that this magazine will allow us to present Cebu in many different ways so that people can discover or rediscover the magic of our island."

At the party were Cebu Holdings president Rene Almendras, Department of Tourism regional director Dawnie Roa, Shangri-La Mactan's director of communications Neil Rumbaoa, Miss Cebu Tourism 2001 Laura Salgado, Charles Lim, Honey Loop, Edu Jarque, Antonio and Lou Aldeguer, Gloria and Joseph Gaisano, Chris Aldeguer, Sandy Chiongbian, Camille Aldeguer and many more.

PHILIP Rodriguez, Ms Cebu Tourism 2001 Laura Salgado, Cebu! magazine publisher Jay Aldeguer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Belgian nun takes home 'sungka' of fond memories

By Angelina G. Goloy
Contributor

The recent departure of a Belgian nun educator is part of the evolution of the ICM mission

A *SUNGKAAN*, with a plastic bag of *sigay* cupped in one of its pits, lay on a table alongside sheaves of paper, books, and letters waiting to be packed for the owner's long journey. It arrived in the morning at the ICM District House on Banawe St., Quezon City, all the way from La Union. "It is from the former sacristan at the chapel in Pugo town," said Sr. Julia Meirhaeghe, who spent 12 years in the missions there in the '50s and '60s.

Now after nearly 48 years of service in the Philippines, she was returning to her native Belgium.

It was the natural course of things, and she was only one in a long line of Belgian nuns who had left this land or this life. But as a classmate, Melba del Barrio-Gidaya, pointed out, among those who had taught, Sister Julia was the last to leave. The 20 or so other nuns still around were serving in the missions and charitable institutions and would eventually return to Belgium too, that is, if they are still strong enough to make the journey.

Sister Julia's departure last April 6, therefore, might as well have marked the end of a chapter in the lives of the countless graduates of St. Theresa's College and other ICM schools all over the country and, to a certain degree, also in the history of Philippine private education.

HOMEWARD bound Sister Julia Meirhaeghe (right) with Sister Mathilde Van Kerckhoven.

STC was established in 1915 in Tondo as St. Theresa's Hall, after the "great doctor saint," Teresa of Avila. It eventually moved to San Marcelino St., Ermita, and became St. Theresa's College.

The Belgian nuns spread out from Bontoc all the way down to Jolo, devoting the best years of their lives to their mission, living and learning with people they came to know better and care for more deeply than their own families. In the process they inspired many Filipino women to follow in their footsteps, among them the seven Aranda sisters, two of whom were my teachers in grade school, Corazon and Milagros.

Filipino nuns picked up where their Belgian mentors left off, carrying on the ICM mission, not only in education but in various ministries as well. This is all part of "the evolution of the mission," says Philippine ICM District head Sister Myrna Francia. The focus now is on "promoting peace, justice, reconciliation, a world community with Jesus as model," she says.

SISTER Myrna Francia (second from right) with two more homeward-bound Belgians, Sisters Agnes Weyts (a.k.a. Sister Benilde) and Angele Desmet, and newcomer from Congo, Sister Judith

Holistic approach

While education will probably always be the reference point, teaching is only an aspect of the ICM legacy, she continues. The integral part of this legacy is "the holistic approach to human development, to make every person a worthwhile child of God, to empower him or her through skills and a faith grounded in reality...an education that is Catholic but not intolerant of other views...(and) stresses love for country through social orientation."

Also changing is the image of the missionary, who, decades ago usually came from a developed country or urban area to work in a Third World country or rural area. Today the reverse is not uncommon. "Three Filipino nuns just left for Burundi and Brazil. I myself was assigned to Belgium from 1974 to 1981 to assist in the mission education of the youth there," mentions Sister Myrna, who has compiled the ICM missionary sisters' stories in a book, "Dancing in the Distance: Women in Mission."

SISTER Therese (in the modern habit) with grade 5 pupils during an excursion in 1965

Belgian Ambassador Ronald Van Remoortele sees this development as the nuns and priests' work here "coming full circle." Most ICM missionaries now are from the Philippines and India, he notes.

"I have great admiration for the Belgian sisters and fathers, their drive is unbelievable," he says, mentioning that most of them come from Flanders, a simple farming region, known for a strong community spirit.

The ambassador stays in touch with the religious here, inviting them to a typical Belgian dinner at his residence at least once a year. His wife Sylvie has also encouraged the nuns to participate in international bazaars, where they sell silver craft from the Baguio missions and exquisite bobbin lace, a world-famous product of the Belgian city of Bruges, and which women in the Iloilo missions now make.

"What is most gratifying," the ambassador confides, "is meeting Filipinos who equate Belgium with the high-quality education they received from the Belgian nuns and priests. The religious are truly Belgium's best ambassadors of goodwill."

Unfortunately Belgium has changed, as the world has changed. "There has not been any new vocation in the last seven years," laments Sister Julia, who was 31 when she arrived in the Philippines in August 1954. She had no idea then what the country was like, except that an uncle, a CICM priest, was assigned in the Mt. Province. She has since learned to speak Ilocano, a Visayan dialect, and, of course, Tagalog—complete with an occasional "*kwan.*"

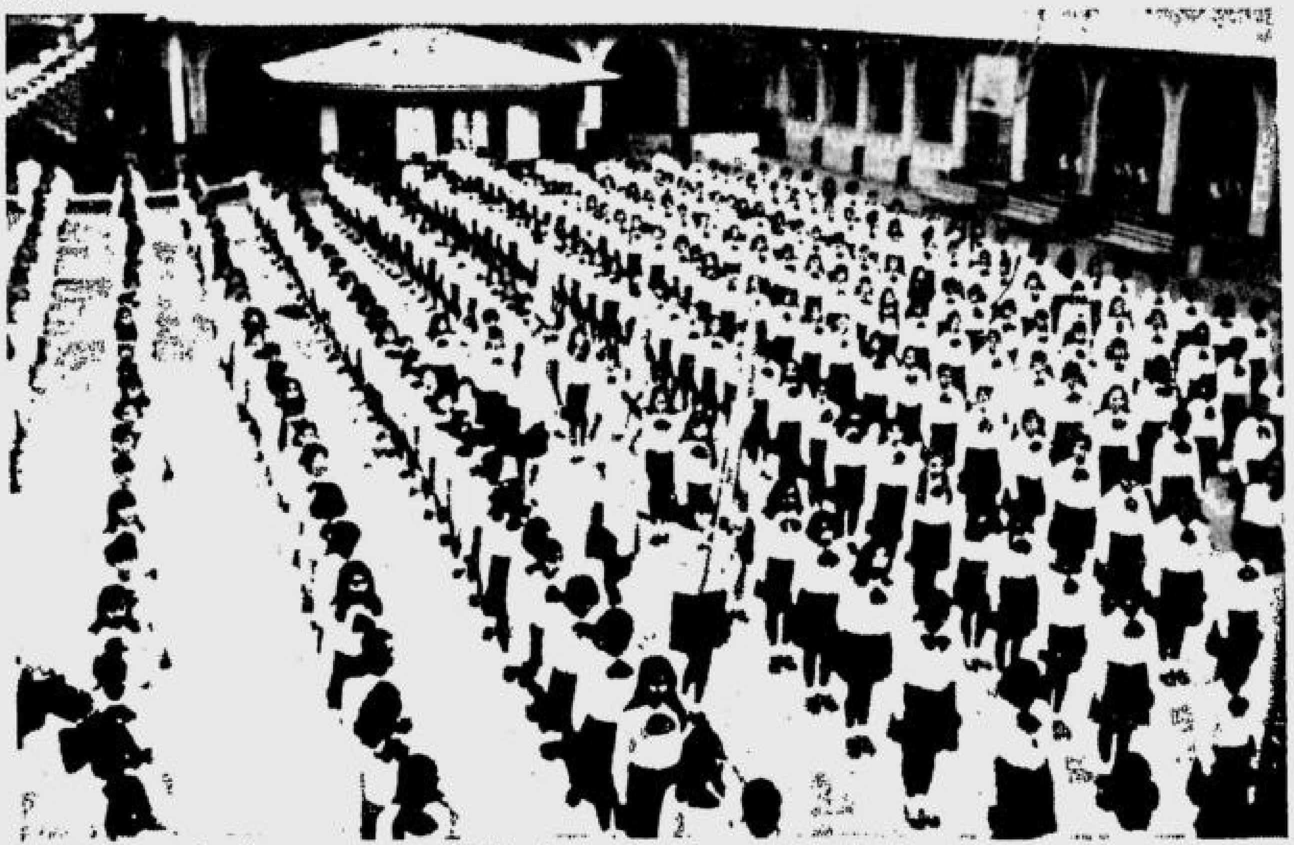
BELGIAN Ambassador Ronald Van Remoortele: Hats off to nuns and priests

On a slow boat

And where did she learn English, the language the nuns drove us to master? "On the boat to the Philippines," Sister Julia says casually. The journey took anywhere from three to six weeks, during which time the nuns trained with a tutor daily. Even when they were already teaching, they continued studying (English, Philippine history, geography, culture, guidance counseling) during the school summer vacation.

Now 79, Sister Julia has "mixed feelings" about going home for good. This has been home, but she also hopes to make it up to a brother who has Downs Syndrome. She looks forward to reuniting with other nuns, like her best friend, Sister Maria, and Sister Therese who, she mentions, has Parkinson's Disease but is still active, taking charge of the ICM missionaries' travel documents.

Most of all, Sister Julia would like to work with the old and disabled nuns at the ICM convent in Heverlee, "talk to them, read the papers and letters for them, run errands..." Perhaps even teach them to play *sungka*? Her ministering days are far from over.



MONDAY morning flag ceremony at STC Manila quadrangle: a picture of order

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ON A WING AND A PRAYER

A woman warrior takes a Sabbatical, sort of

By Mary John Mananzan, O.S.B.
Contributor

IT IS the first day of my Sabbatical. I am at the pre-departure area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport waiting for my flight, SQ 073, for Singapore-Mumbai for the first stop of my yearlong Sabbatical. It is also the end of my second and last term as president of St. Scholastica's College. I spent my last day in the office signing last-minute checks, requisitions, recommendations, handing out millions (believe it or not!)—the retirement checks of retiring administrators and faculty members—kissing, hugging, making teary goodbyes, sharing a last morning merienda with my community, and making last-minute packing before going to the airport. On the way, I used my cell phone three times for last-minute instructions to the staff of the Institute of Women's Studies.

I have a two-hour wait in Singapore after a really a pleasant flight. I feel very much at home in an SQ airplane because it is like an extension of Nursia—(home of the Institute of Women's Studies). Like Nursia, like Mendez, like Lila House (our new women's sanctuary), Singapore planes are in all shades of lavender—the seats, the pillows, the blanket, the menu card.

I amuse myself by doing the International Herald Tribune crossword puzzle and watching a movie—the Oscar-winning "Lion in Winter" with Katharine Hepburn and Richard O'Toole. I sit beside a young woman working in Singapore. I think of all the Filipinas working in this city and in all cities of the world as domestic workers, entertainers, professionals and some, unfortunately, as prostituted women. I just hope they are able to cope with all the difficulties they meet.

THE AUTHOR

I have with me my Purple Rose pin. It is the symbol of Gabriela's Purple Rose Campaign against sex trafficking. When I meet our Intercultural Course graduates in Bangalore in a reunion-evaluation seminar, I must remember to talk to them about this and establish a network with them.

Intellectual

One of the most important features of my Sabbatical Year is the Asian Public Intellectual (API) Fellowship (the last word is actually a sexist word, but I haven't found any alternative as yet).

A word about my sponsor. The API Fellowship Program is a project of the Nippon Foundation, which aims "to enable public intellectuals in Asia to pursue intellectual, cultural and professional projects in another Asian country according to one of three predetermined themes." Chosen participants will carry out a project of research, attend professional activities and API workshops and disseminate the findings and results of their work to a wider audience. They receive a very generous subsidy for transportation, board and lodging, research expenses, etc., including expenses of accompanying spouse or child. Member countries are the Philippines, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. In the Philippines, the partner institution is the Social Development Center of the Ateneo de Manila University. The office's email is api@admu.edu.ph, just in case you want to know more about the API program. (So how is that for advertisement, Father Joel, Felice, and Russell?)

Lone woman

This year, out of 90 applicants, six were chosen, and I am the lone woman. But don't accuse the API of sexism. Father Joel said there were at least six women in the short list of 12. The other fellows are Arnold Azurin, Francisco Englis and Jose M. Galang Jr, who are senior fellows (above 35 years of age) like me, and Wilfredo Torres III and Alan Villarante, junior fellows.

My own program is a six-month research on Women and Asian Religions and Spirituality that will take me to Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, and Malaysia. I have to include India, even if API will not fund the trip, because it would be impossible to talk about women and religion without including the country.

I have actually been studying this topic for the last 10 years and have given some courses on it. But I want to make a contextual study—living with the women, observing their daily life and their practice of religion and spirituality, talking with them, asking their opinions on the impact of religion in their lives.

I would like to take a video of them for a multi-media presentation. I will then teach a course on the subject in Frankfurt University where I have been invited as a guest professor for the 2002 winter term, October-December. On the last two months of my Sabbatical, I will finalize my manuscript into a book, which I hope to write as a semi-hermit in our Women and Ecology Wholeness Farm in Mendez, Cavite. *O ayan, tapos na ang* Sabbatical *ko.*

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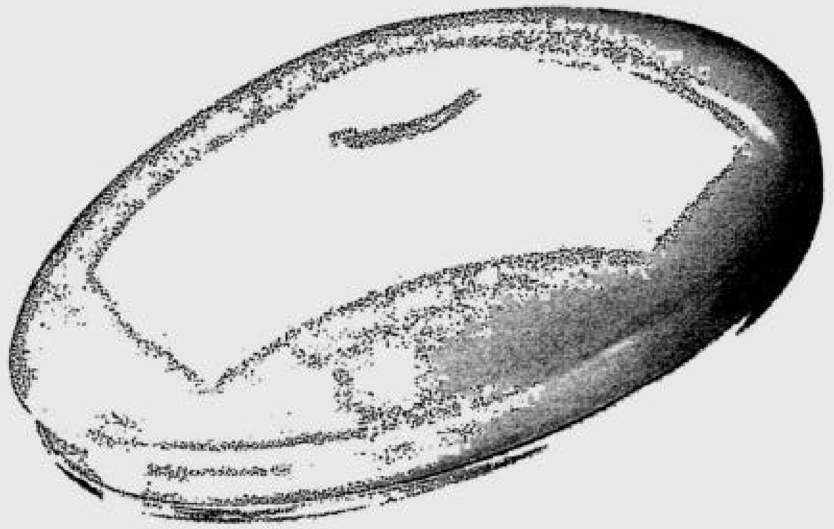

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Sunday
LIFESTYLE
Weddings & Engagements

Picture-perfect look for the bride by Ricky Reyes

Story on page E4

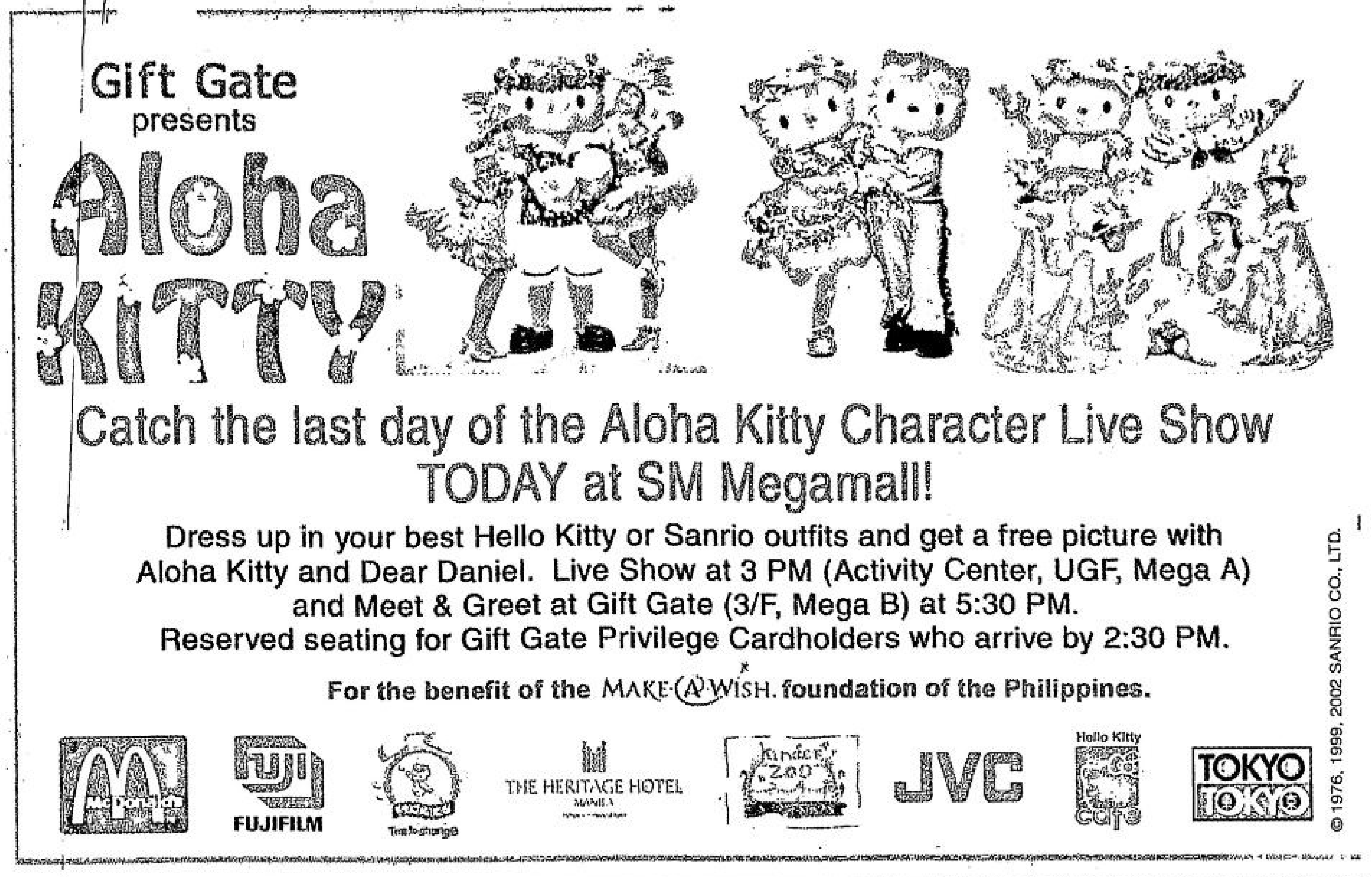
Bridal fair has something for both bride and groom

MAGIC 89.9 and Wedding Professionals are organizing a bridal fair, "A Bridal Affair," Aug. 10 and 11, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., at the Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Promising to be a different kind of bridal fair, the event will have the look and feel of a wedding reception while providing a good environment for showcasing wedding suppliers. Free cocktails are available to all guests throughout the day. Exhibitors will get meals, as part of the benefits of having a booth.

String and jazz musicians will provide live music from 5-7 p.m. during the two-day fair. The fair does not only cater to brides but is designed to serve the grooms as well. Exhibits will include fashion for men and bridal registries such as True Value. Free beer will be served 5-7 p.m. on both days.

"A Bridal Affair" is designed to encourage prospective brides and grooms to come and check out wedding services together. Call 982-8096, 453-4241, 633-9639 to -41 or (0917) 531-2284.



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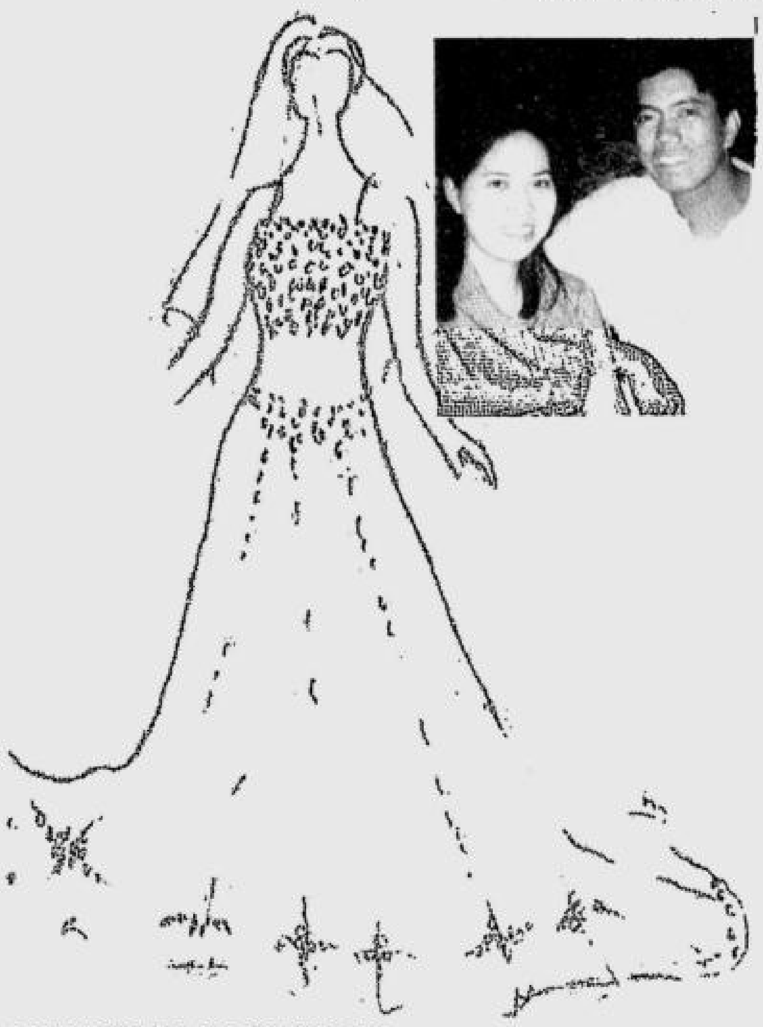
Milestones

We are accepting announcements of weddings, engagements and debuts. Send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding at the Philippine Daily Inquirer, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*



MARASIGAN-CRISOSTOMO

Alex C. Marasigan, son of **Agapito** and **Corazon Marasigan**, will exchange marital vows with **Caroline E. Crisostomo**, daughter of **Juanito** and **Carmelita E. Crisostomo**, on June 15 at St. Policarp Parish Church, Cabuyao. Rev. Fr. **Edison Roque** will officiate the ceremonies. Reception will follow at the China Pearl Restaurant, Balibago Road, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The bride will wear a spaghetti-strap gown made of pure white satin, embellished with rhinestones, silver-white beads and pearls. The entourage will wear gowns in lavander-green motif. **Filomena Caparas** will design the entourage.

BANARES-ENCINARES

Jhun Banares, son of **Rodolfo** and **Vivian Banares**, married **Loretta Encinares**, daughter of **Wenceslao** and **Magdalena vda. de Encinares**, on May 18 at Holy Sacrament of San Sebastian. Reception followed at Executive Plaza Hotel. The bridal gown was designed by **Ding Pandeaga** of QC.

BRUAL-VILLARRUZ

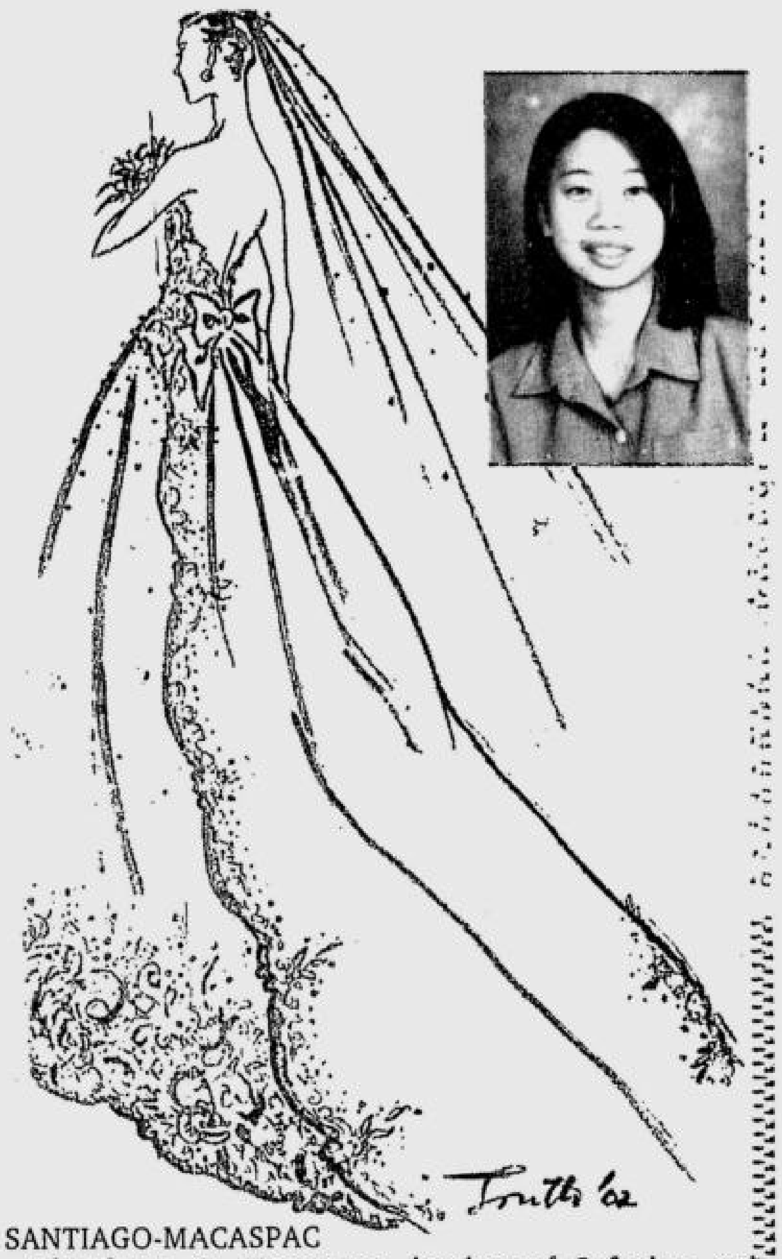
Engineer **Edilberto D. Brual Jr.** and **Abbiegail E. Villarruz** will wed on June 12 at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church of Bauan, Batangas. Reception will follow at the Bauan Technical High School Gym. The groom is the son of **Edilberto** and **Teresita Brual**, and the bride is the daughter of **Ric** and **Anabelle Villarruz**.

INTON-PINEDA

Carlito P. Inton Jr., son of lawyer **Carlito** and **Dolores Inton**, exchanged marriage vows with **Teddilou P. Pineda**, daughter of **Teodoro M. Pineda** and **Lolita P. Pineda**, on April 6 at the St. Nicholas of Tolentine Cathedral, Cabanatuan City. Reception followed at the La Parilla Hotel, Cabanatuan City.

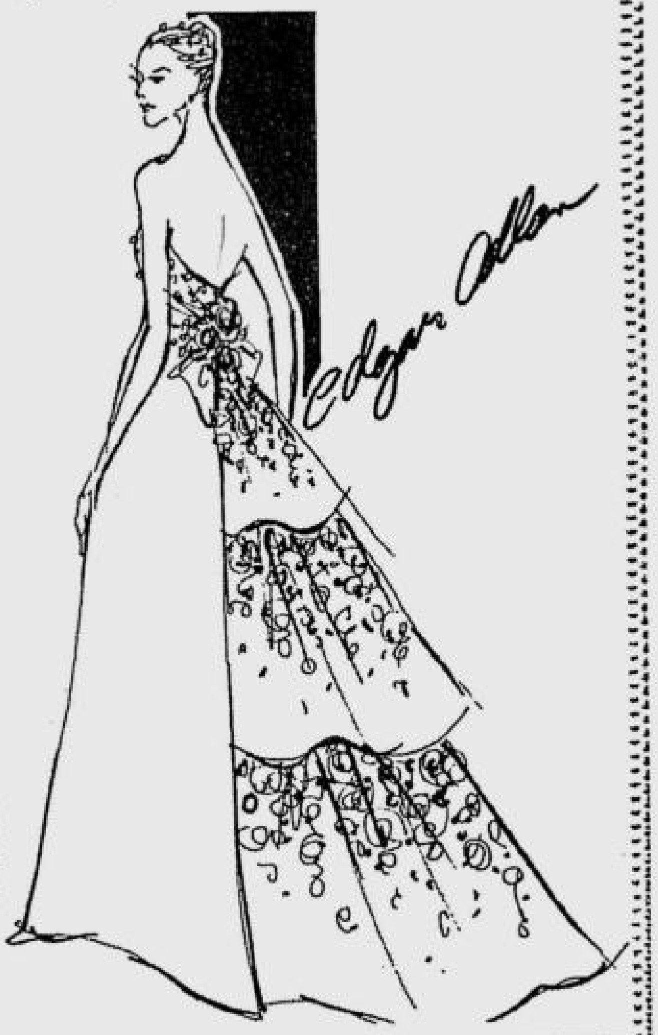
MANGABAN-ABUY

Modesto Misael N. Mangaban, son of **Amparo T. Nora vda. de Mangaban**, and **Clarissa B. Abuy**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Feliciano V. Abuy**, received the sacrament of Holy Matrimony on May 25 at St. Louis Bishop Parish Church in Lucban, Quezon. The ceremonial rites were officiated by Rev. Fr. **Jose Cantos II**. Reception was at La Dona Ana, Lucban.



SANTIAGO-MACASPAC

Claudette G. Macaspac, daughter of **Ceferino** and **Constancia Macaspac**, will wed **Alfredo E. Santiago Jr.**, son of **Teresita Santiago** and the late **Alfredo Santiago Sr.**, on June 15 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way the Truth and the Life. Reception will follow at the Peninsula Manila Hotel. The bride will wear a white duchess satin gown by **Loretto**.



ANINAO DEBUT

Angela Cherie Aninao, a physics and computer coed of the Ateneo de Manila, will be introduced to the Iloilo society at a dinner-dance to be hosted by her parents, **Angelo** and **Delia Garingalao Aninao**, on June 1 at the ballroom of the Hotel del Rio.

Edgar Allan created a romantic strapless gown in lilac silk shantung with a dramatic back of three-tiered pink organza strewn with beaded ivory lace.

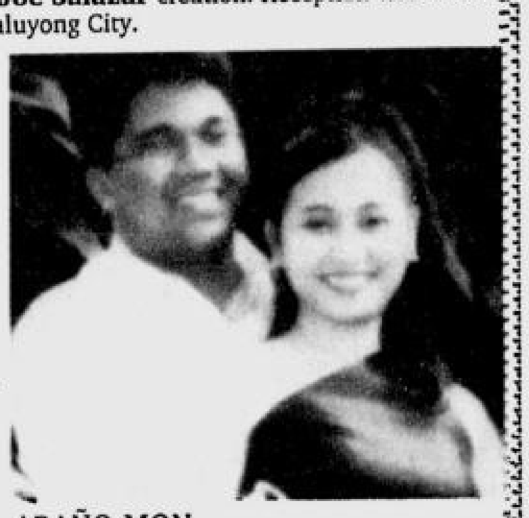
TAN-GATUE-ZHANG

Dr. **Philip Niño P. Tan-Gatue** and **Catherine Zhang Bo** tied the knot in beautiful ceremonies solemnized by Fr. **Pol Jinan**, O.S.J., at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong on May 4 that coincided with the 45th wedding anniversary of Philip's parents **Alejandro** and **Antonia Tan-Gatue**.

In photo are the newlyweds with the bride's parents, **Zhang Guo Liang** and **Lei Ze Ping**, who flew in all the way from Changaha City in Human Province, People's Republic of China, and Mr. and Ms Tan-Gatue. The bride wore a **Joe Salazar** creation. Reception was held at the Garden Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La, Mandaluyong City.

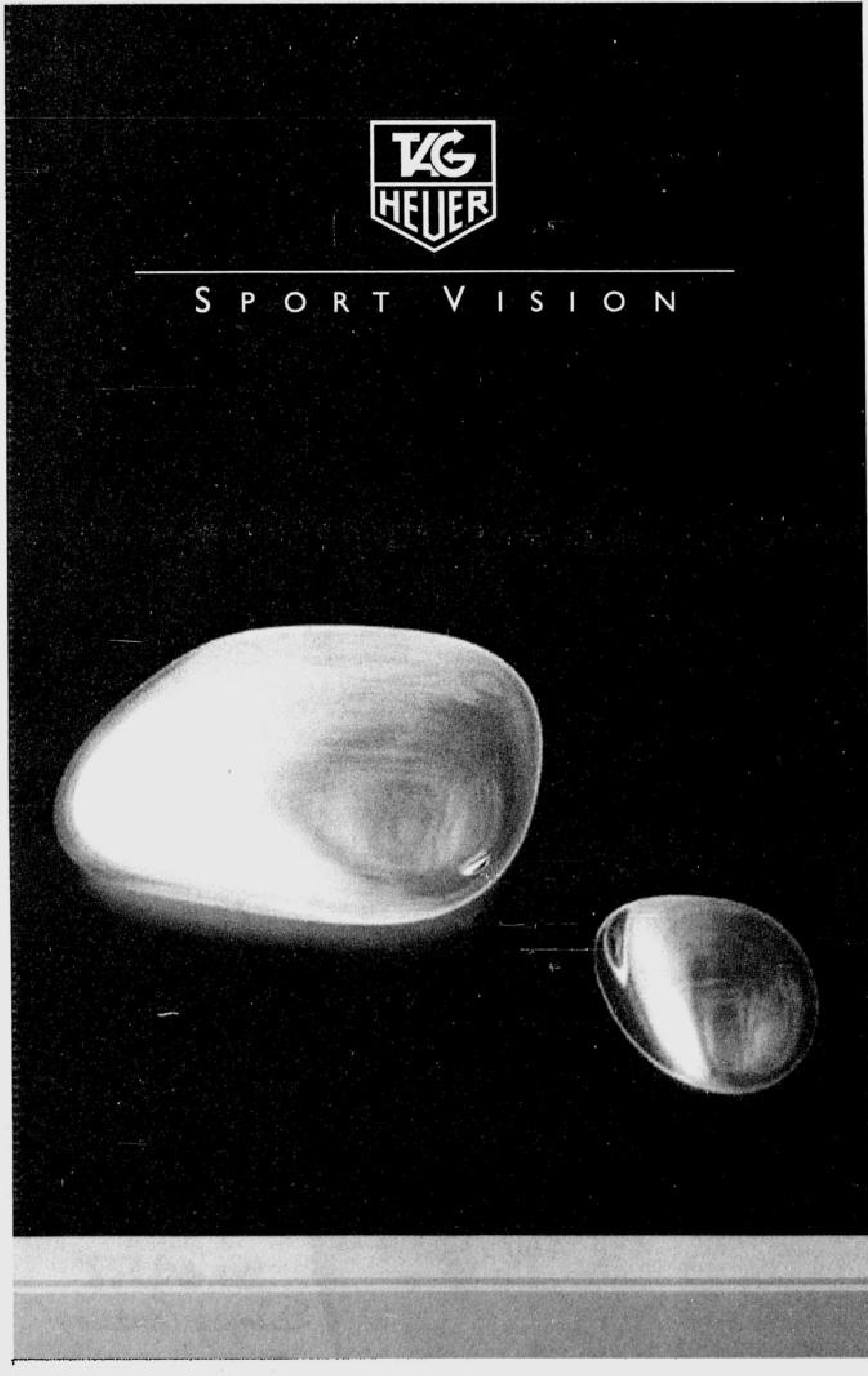
MENDOZA-ASIS

Gloria A. Asis became the bride of **Macario A. Mendoza** at ceremonies held at the Fishing Village of Parks and Wildlife, QC on Feb. 24. Wearing a **John Borromeo**-designed gown, Gloria is the daughter of **Venancio** and **Norma Asis**, and teaches at the Communication Department of Far Eastern University. The groom, a police officer, is the son of **Aurelio** and **Raymunda Mendoza**. Catering was done by Eloquente.



ABAÑO-MON

Josephine R. Mon, daughter of **Dominador** and **Ma. Fe Mon**, exchanged marriage vows with **Ramon Edwin B. Abaño**, son of **Antonio** and **Nora Abaño**, on May 28 at Fernwood Gardens, QC. Josephine wore an off-shoulder, princess-cut gown embellished with handmade rosettes, glass beads, nakar pearls and Swarovski crystals designed by **Renato Rodriguez**.



In love with a fellow seminarian

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My fellow seminarian and I began as friends. Later, I found myself missing him and wanting to be near him often. I felt attached to him, and I told him so. He neither encouraged nor discouraged me. I did not tell him my real feelings, though.

Once we went swimming in his friend's private pool and I saw him naked when we changed into our trunks. He made no fuss about it, so I took off my clothes in front of him, too. Neither of us made a big deal about it, but deep inside I was happy, especially when he told me I was the only one he had ever invited there. I did not feel anything sexual toward him. I was simply happy. I admit, though, that I've had sexual thoughts about him, but each time I would pray and the Lord gave me the strength to overcome them.

Months before he left our seminary for higher studies, I saw signs that he was also falling for me. As a human, I liked that, but as a man of God, I resisted. I prayed that nothing sexual would happen between us. I knew that even if I desired him nothing good would come out of it.

I am sad we are now apart, and sometimes I think I have not been honest with myself for holding back. But more importantly, I think, is that I am at peace with myself and with God because, for the two years we were together, my friend and I kept our friendship chaste.

JUN

Given the scandal caused by the homosexual behavior of some priests in the United States, what you have shared with us is very timely.

You're not a priest yet, of course, but many people believe that a priest has always had whatever problematic sexual behavior he might exhibit in his parish today.

But what is more important is this: faith triumphs over the flesh. That is one message that will doubtless be precious to seminarians who find themselves in the crucible that you were in.

Some people would argue that one victory does not guarantee another. Indeed, it does not. But it would be silly to think that you wouldn't succeed again. You have faced your demon, named it and vanquished it. And you have known your weapons: prayer and faith. Next time that demon jumps on you, you will be fighting it with an advantage that you didn't have before.

Some might still say that despite your triumph, you are flawed and unfit for priesthood. I disagree. Jesus had disciples who, before they found true faith, had flaws graver than yours—and yet they helped bring Christianity into this millennium.

Perhaps the test for Christ's disciples (or disciples-to-be) today is not whether their faith could be bought off with 30 pieces of silver, but whether it can withstand the temptations of the flesh. If that is so, then you have passed it, my dear.

Just grin and bear it

I HAVE been married for two years. I have a loving husband whose job sometimes requires him to go out of town for a few days. I am a homebody because my hobby has become a money-earner. I love baking, and my friends as well as their friends order my cakes and cookies. One of them has a *sari-sari* store near some offices and employees buy snacks from the store.

I am hoping to become a mother soon. I am under the care of an ob-gyne, and my life is really peaceful even with the events in and out of our country.

However, something bothers me. Is this a normal feeling? My mother-in-law keeps coming to the house, probably to check on me. When she sees me busy, she leaves at once. On days when I have nothing to do and I am on the phone talking to friends, she sits near me, with a suspicious look on her face, listening to what I am saying.

My father-in-law works in an office that is why she has a lot of free time. My brothers-in-law all work abroad and my two sisters-in-law are married and live in the province.

What should I do? Should I stop talking on the phone?

LINDA

Just welcome her each time, serve her snacks, and when you are on the phone and she is listening, make sure she hears what you say. That will assure her you are not flirting with anyone. She may just want to make sure you are faithful to her son. And also, as she is often alone, she may be missing her sons and daughters, that is why her time revolves around you.

You should be happy that she keeps you company. You might also ask her for advice or suggestions. That will assure her that you respect her. Good luck.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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Mechanics
1. From May 30 up to midnight of June 6, 2002, all Talk 'N Text Movie Club members who download for the Trivia Quiz, ringtone or graphic icon will receive one (1) electronically-generated trivia or download raffle number.
2. From May 30 up to 12 noon of June 17, 2002, all members who complete a successful transaction for the SineStorya game will receive one (1) electronically-generated SineStorya raffle number.
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4. The top twenty (20) subscribers with the most SineStorya raffle numbers win movie passes good for two (2) to the regular showing of the movie.
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Ensuring the picture-perfect look for the bride

PROPORTION the flowers as hairpiece with the size and shape of the bride's face.

ALL brides are beautiful. They glow and exude an aura of sheer happiness as they walk down the aisle to keep a date in the altar.

It's the bride's day and all eyes will definitely be on her. So naturally, the bride wants to capture this once-in-a-lifetime joy in photos. She has to be picture-perfect. Will she get her wish?

Not always, says hair and makeup artist Ricky Reyes.

"This is a common mistake among makeup artists who do bridal makeup," explains Ricky. "Indeed, the bride may look beautiful in person, but if the makeup is not correctly done, the photos will reveal otherwise—the concealer around the eyes may be so white that it disfigures the face; the foundation may be too oily; the blusher may be too red. These may not be obvious in person, but the photos will show the truth."

Choosing a good makeup artist is the key. Reyes, for instance, has developed Bridal Creative Teams to take care of the beauty needs of the bride from the time the hair is set and the makeup is applied, to the time that she is celebrating with guests at the reception. The Ricky Reyes Bridal Creative Teams (call 721-7705 or 723-5440) is also trained to put the headpieces, veils and jewelry properly, retouch the makeup, and do last-minute repairs on the hairstyle.

"The bride can relax and not think of any beauty disaster. The Bridal Creative Team will be by her side," Reyes says.

Photographs will reveal bad instances of hair and makeup fixing. Ricky Reyes has formed a creative team to prevent these

HEADPIECES and jewelry should be put properly, makeup and hairstyle retouched.

FOUNDATION used on certain parts of the face should be a shade lighter so as not to expose laugh lines.

To help the bride avoid beauty mishaps that are clearly visible in photos, Reyes shares how common mistakes can be remedied:

Wrong type of foundation. The tropical heat easily makes the foundation meld with the skin. Using the wrong foundation may prove disastrous. Reyes advises that for those with dry skin, creme foundation is perfect. The oily type should go for the cake foundation.

Failure to blend well the foundation may result in exposed laugh lines. Make sure that the foundation used on this area of the face is one shade lighter. Never forget to blend well the foundation applied on the neck and ears. Do not overuse the concealer, too. You wouldn't want to look like a raccoon!

Too much blusher. "Brides must be queens and not mannequins," Reyes says. "Putting too much blusher will make them look like Raggedy Anns. Brides with soft supple skin can in fact do away with blusher for that more natural look."

So much red. "You will notice in some photos how the lips of the bride dominate her whole face. That is because the lipstick used was too red. The bride need not catch attention by putting on very red lipstick or blusher because whatever happens, she is the star of the show!"

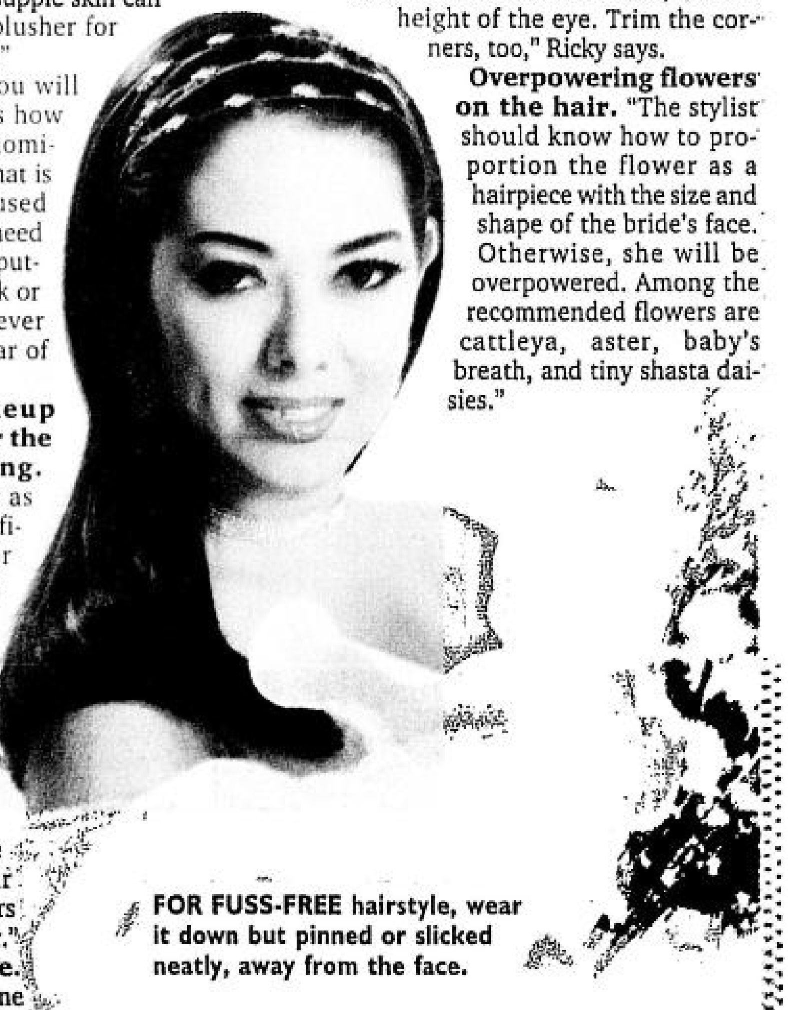
Hair and makeup that's not suited for the time of the wedding. "There is such a thing as hair and makeup specifically for morning, for early or late afternoon, and for evening weddings. Colors and degree of application vary according to the time of the day. Morning weddings require light makeup. Garden weddings will have more impact if the bride wears her hair down with some dashers of flowerets on the hair."

Difficult hairstyle. "Unless there is someone at the beck and call of the bride to fix her hair, it is better that the bride sport a fuss-free hairstyle. It can be worn down but should be pinned or slicked neatly, away from the face."

Lipstick on the teeth. "One common mistake of the makeup artist is to disregard the use of lip sheen-er, which can actually avoid smearing. You will thus notice that some brides have lipstick on their teeth even before they arrive in the church."

Wrong length of false eyelashes. Highlighting the eyebrow and the eyelashes give life to any makeup. However, some makeup artists do not know how to choose the right length of lashes for the bride. The trick? "Choose false lashes that are 3/4 of the height of the eye. Trim the corners, too," Ricky says.

Overpowering flowers on the hair. "The stylist should know how to proportion the flower as a hairpiece with the size and shape of the bride's face. Otherwise, she will be overpowered. Among the recommended flowers are cattleya, aster, baby's breath, and tiny shasta daisies."



FOR FUSS-FREE hairstyle, wear it down but pinned or slicked neatly, away from the face.

Ignoring test makeup. Test makeup will give you a preview of how you will look on your wedding day. Go for a photo shoot if you want to be sure so that you will also know how the hair and makeup will be in actual wedding pictures. Do this a month before the wedding date, and if you have the budget, go for another makeup test two weeks before D-Day."

Not telling the stylist what you want. "Because stylists are supposed to be the experts, some brides are apprehensive of telling the stylists their preference. This should not be the case because the outcome should be a collaborative work between them. Tell the stylist if you do not feel comfortable with a certain hairstyle or makeup."

DON'T put too much blusher or very red lipstick. Brides must be queens and not mannequins.

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1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting June 1, 2002 until June 15, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Father's Day Special Section on June 16, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon.
2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., affix signature and your father's name, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of June 20, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 3 fathers/winners will each win gift certificates from Rustan's worth PHP 1,000.00.
4. The raffle draw will be held on June 24, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw.
6. GCs are not convertible to cash.
7. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail and their names will be announced via print ads.
8. Winners can claim their GCs at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.
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11. Promo is valid only in GMA. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.

Sample Ads

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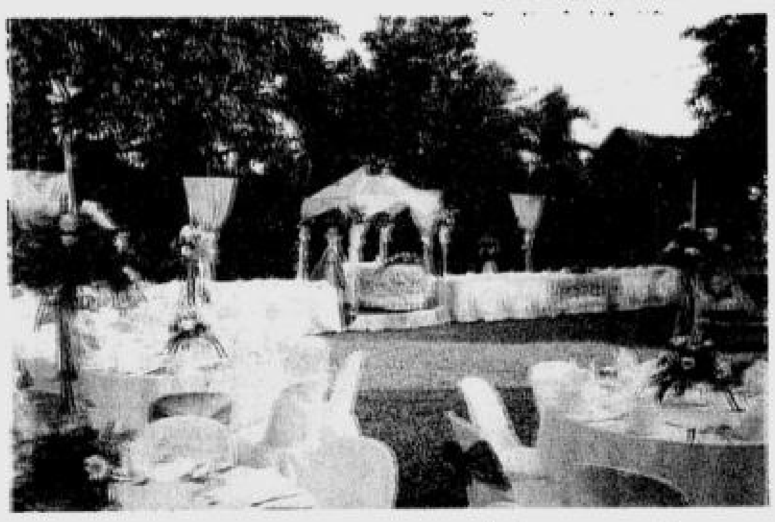


Spanish-style wedding place in the heart of Quezon City

JOSE de Leon built a Spanish-style edifice in Quezon City and converted the spacious garden into one of Metro Manila's popular garden wedding and party venues. At first, Sen. Noli de Castro and other celebrities from ABS-CBN used the garden and its al fresco ambience for special private parties. The garden also became a favorite location shooting of the network, movie outfits and advertising firms. Soon, by word of mouth, more bookings followed until De Leon decided to open the place as an excellent wedding and party venue.

Located in the heart of Quezon City and surrounded by churches, which makes it an ideal and accessible wedding reception venue, Casa Español (tel. 920-8535, 455-2449 or 928-4859) specializes in garden wedding celebrations.

Be prepared to walk on a red carpet, with *capiz*-enclosed lights hanging on trees. Special-backdrop light effects for the patio and the fountain area highlight the romantic setting. There is also a Roman-decorated gazebo for the bride and groom. The place looks like a vacation spot in Costa Del Sol with its arched doorways, terra-cotta shingles and stucco finish.

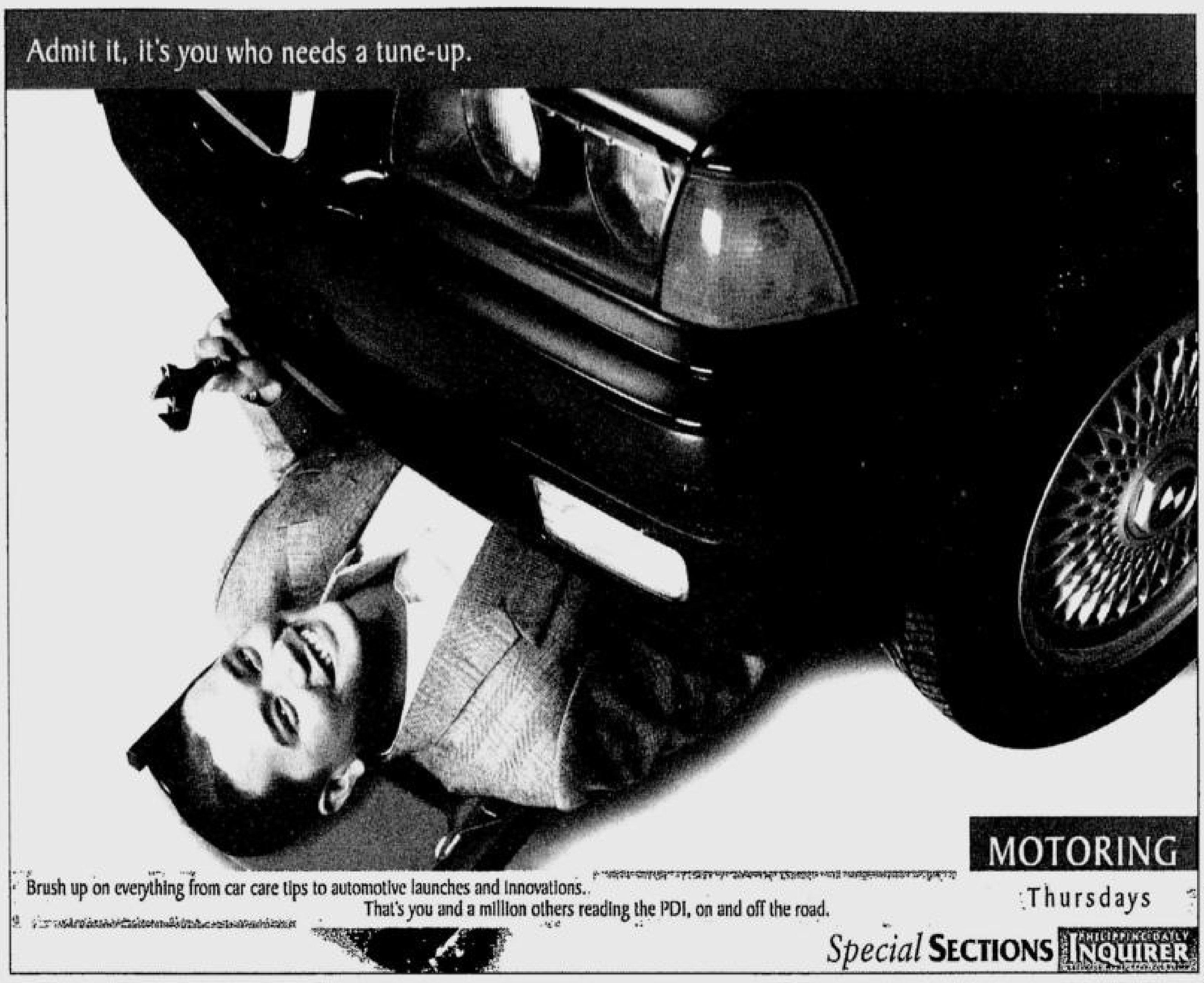
Siblings Eric and Dinna de Leon manage the place. They enjoy taking care of all the details, from the arrangement of the flowers to planning the decorations, setting the music, and preparing the food.

Guests at Eric's own wedding in 1999 were awed at the transformation of the vast garden into a dreamland. The music was romantic and soothing. The lighting was excellent. The floral arrangements were exquisite. Ditto with the styled gazebo, the canopy, and the food.

Couples on a tight budget won't be discouraged to try Casa Espanol out, as it offers wedding packages to suit everyone's needs. Consider this: for only P65,000, one may have a very elegant garden wedding for 150 guests, with dinner buffet of one's choice, fully trained waiters and chief waiters for the presidential table, a guest book, name plates for the presidential table guests, a torch parade, a floral arrangement, a bottle of imported champagne or apple cider for toasting, an elegant waterfall centerpiece and of, course, music to dance the night away.

Casa Español boasts of a wide variety of Epicurean delights. The Spanish Dinner buffet consists of Callos à la Madrileña, Bife El Bueno and Pollo de Cerdo à la Sara Gozana. The Continental Dinner buffet features regular favorites such as Chicken à la King, Beef Stroganoff, Linguine Carbonara and Roast Chicken al Orange. The Filipino Dinner buffet showcases Chicken Relleno Royale, Spicy Beef Caldereta, Lapu Lapu Fillet in Mushroom Sauce, Sotanghon and Leche Flan and assorted native delicacies for desserts. The Oriental Dinner Buffet offers old Chinese favorites such as Canton Chow Mien, Fried Fish Fillet in Black Beans and Braised Chicken with Peking Sauce.

Recently, Casa Espanol has come up with kiddie garden parties as a more exciting alternative to burger joint parties. For just over P30,000, give a worry-free birthday party for 100 or more guests, complete with decorations, balloons, chairs and tables, piñata, fun games and clowns.



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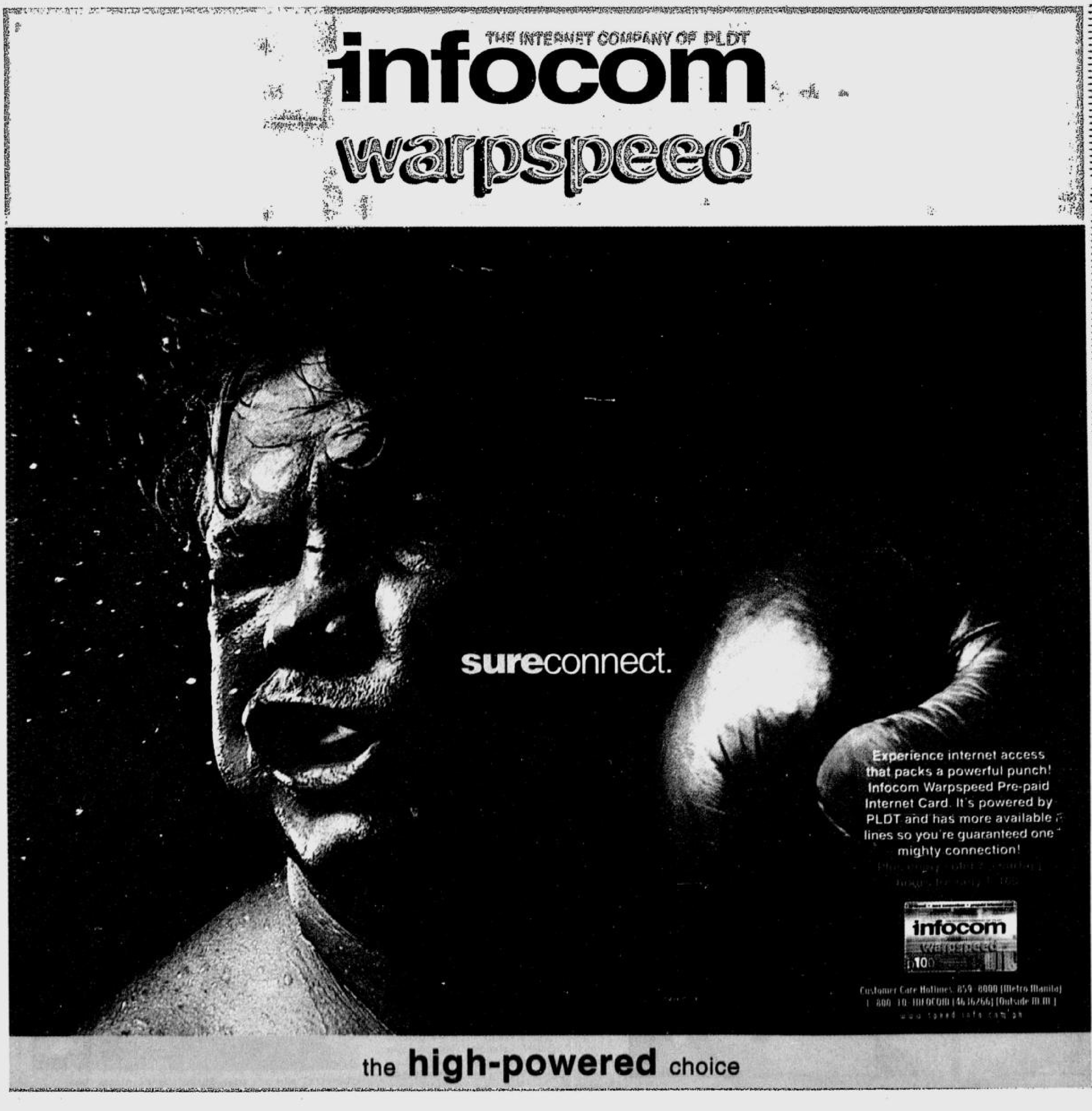

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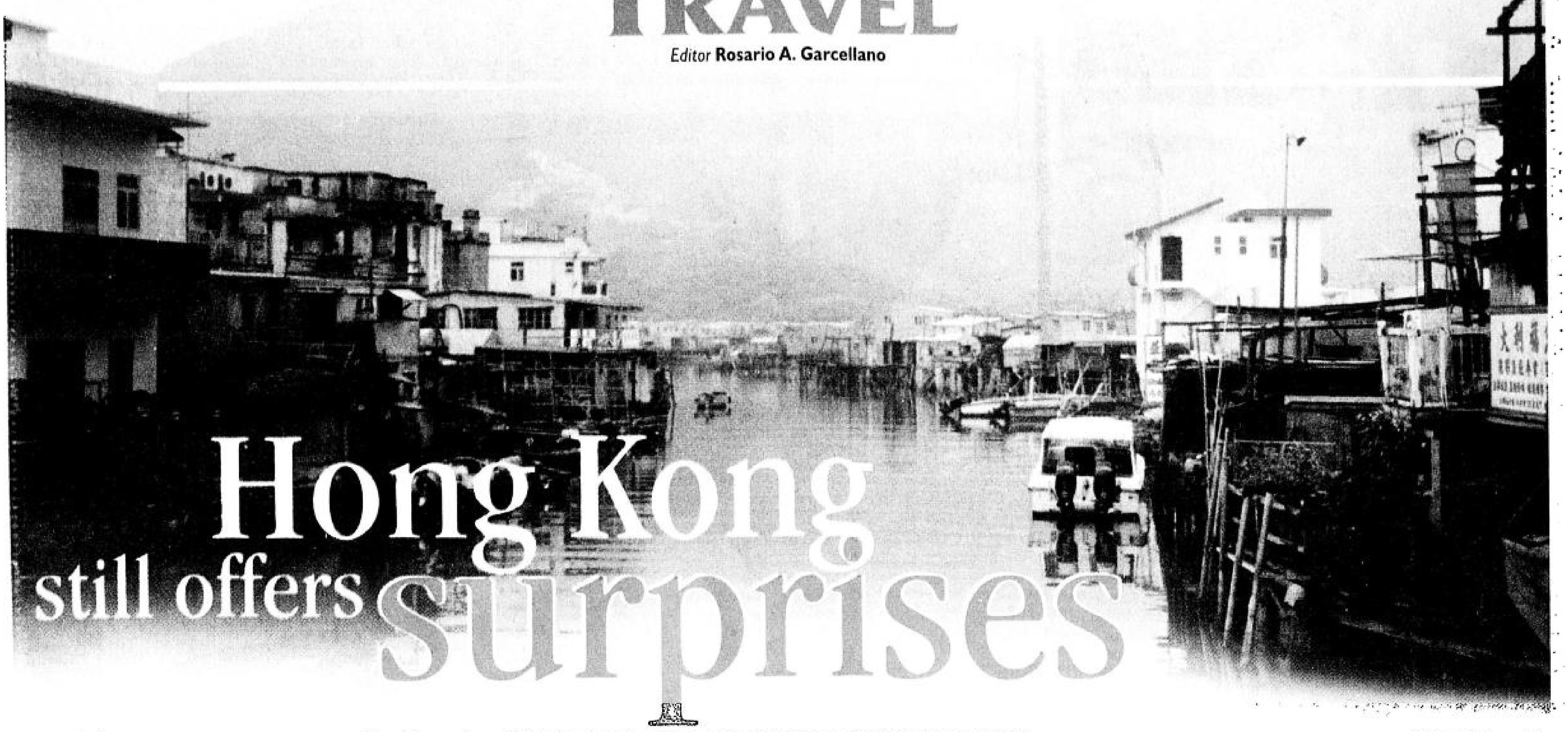


Hong Kong still offers surprises

HOUSES on stilts at the Tai O fishing village

Text and photos by Stella O. Gonzales

SHOPPING and excellent Cantonese cuisine remain the major attractions of Hong Kong, but there's a lot more going on in this special administrative region.

There is Lantau Island—mountainous, forested, tranquil, and a far cry from the bustling Hong Kong Island and Kowloon Peninsula.

Commonly known only as the site of the huge Hong Kong international airport (Chek Lap Kok), Lantau Island offers such attractions as white-sand beaches (including a nudist beach), walking trails, a quaint traditional fishing village, and a monastery with "the world's largest outdoor seated Buddha." (In 2005, you can add Disneyland to this list.)

On Lantau's western shores is the Tai O fishing village where locals still live in shanties on stilts. (Oh, shanties on stilts are a common sight in the Philippines? Okay, but those in Tai O have air-conditioning units.)

The Hong Kong Tourism Board, which together with Cathay Pacific recently sponsored a familiarization tour for 25 journalists from all over the world (including four from the Philippines), was not one to sweep a not-so-pleasant sight under the rug. In fact, the HKTB made sure the Tai O village was part of the journalists' tour.

Mostly older people who continue to make a living from fishing are left in the small village. There used to be rice paddies in the area, but nobody wants to be a farmer anymore.

According to our highly conversant guide, Nevin Lim, many residents have moved to high-rise apartments nearby. Soon, no one will be left in the shanties as the government continues to offer the residents incentives to leave their houses. The government, however, plans to retain the village as a museum.

A popular destination in Lantau is the Po Lin Monastery, located high in the mountains.

To get there, one passes by the Shek Pik reservoir dam. On the valley below is the Hong Kong prison. (If the dam breaks, guess who will drown first, our guide quipped.)

The road to the monastery is a series of hairpin twists around mountains.

At the monastery, the 33-meter-high bronze Buddha can be reached by climbing 300 steps. It may be a hard climb for those not used to taking the stairs, but there is ample reward later in the form of vegetarian food offered by a restaurant several meters from the bottom of the steps. This is the same kind of food served to the Buddhist monks. (According to our guide—who, the Filipino journalists agreed, made our tour fascinating with unheard-of stories about Hong Kong, its culture and its people—the monks don't put garlic and onions in their food because these are considered stimulants.)

GUIDE Nevin Lim in Mandarin costume

The visitor to Lantau can choose from many beaches.

If you want to get away from the crowded city, you can rent a two-bedroom apartment (with kitchen) for only HK$200 per day on weekdays (the rent goes up to $700 on weekends). There are eating places dotting the beachfronts, if you don't feel like cooking.

From an awesome Buddha to shanties on stilts, there's still a lot to see and admire in the former British Colony

Hong Kong residents, however, still troop to Repulse Bay on the southern side of Hong Kong Island because it is closer to their homes. It gets crowded on weekends, but on weekdays you can imagine why it looked extremely romantic in the 1955 William Holden-Jennifer Jones classic, "Love is a Many-Splendored Thing."

A major tourist attraction near Repulse Bay is Stanley, where you can get bargains in dry goods.

A visit to Hong Kong will not be complete without a trip to Ocean Park on Hong Kong Island, especially if you have kids with you.

The park keeps upgrading and adding attractions—the latest includes the Pacific Pier where you can feed noisy seals and sea lions with frozen fish.

There is also the Atoll Reef where you descend through the four-level glass-panelled galleries to get an underwater view of the "island lagoon" with its more than 2,600 fish of 200 species.

Ocean Park unveiled in July 2001 the 60 meter-high Abyss Turbo Drop, which takes you atop the tower before plummeting toward the ground.

One (extremely satisfying) lesson this writer learned during this trip was that many Hong Kong chefs have successfully blended a modern twist into traditional Cantonese cuisine.

Our dinners at Hotel Inter-Continental's Yan Toh Heen, Grand Stanford Inter-Continental's Hoi King Heen restaurant and the Golden Bauhinia at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center were all remarkable in terms of taste and presentation. (To show how good the food was, the journalists in the tour gained an average of three pounds each.)

The Yan Toh Heen makes eating all the more appealing by using matching presentation plates, napkin rings, spoons and fish-shaped chopstick "rests" handcrafted in green jade—a symbol of excellence and purity to the Chinese. Each place setting is valued at HK$8,000.

Indeed, Hong Kong has never-ending gimmicks to lure tourists.

Currently, it has "The World's Biggest Welcome" campaign where Cathay Pacific gave away 10,000 round-trip tickets for Hong Kong residents to invite their relatives and friends overseas to visit Hong Kong between April 3 and July 3.

Then, starting mid-June until the end of August, it will hold the HSBC Mega Hong Kong Sale, which will run for 11 shopping weeks.

To sustain interest over the 11 weeks, four categories of merchandise will be featured during four theme periods. From June 15, the theme will be fashion and beauty goods, then jewelry and watches (from July 6), consumer electronics including cell phones, computers and cameras (from July 27), and Chinese traditions like herbs, seafood and crafts (from Aug. 17).

Upon presentation of a mega-sale privilege card, which one gets at the airport, visitors can receive discount upon discount (some merchants will give an extra 5-percent discount on already discounted items) or free gifts upon purchase or special promo items.

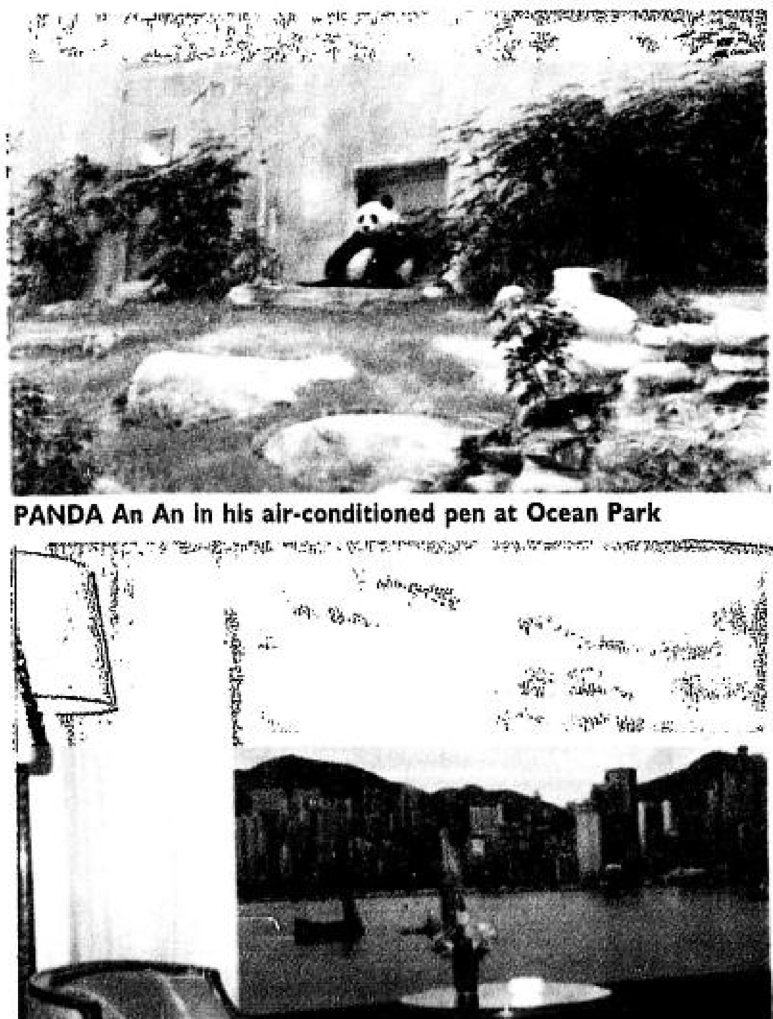
There will be daily draws of air tickets from Cathay Pacific or Dragonair. For the grand draw, visitors and Hong Kong residents get a chance to win 10-carat diamond jewelry worth HK$1 million.

And after a tiring day of shopping, eating and sightseeing, one looks forward to resting in one of Hong Kong's luxury hotels.

The Filipino journalists were billeted at the Grand Stanford Inter-Continental Hong Kong on Salisbury Road, East Tsim Tsa Tsui, and each was given a room with a breathtaking view of Victoria Harbour and Hong Kong Island.

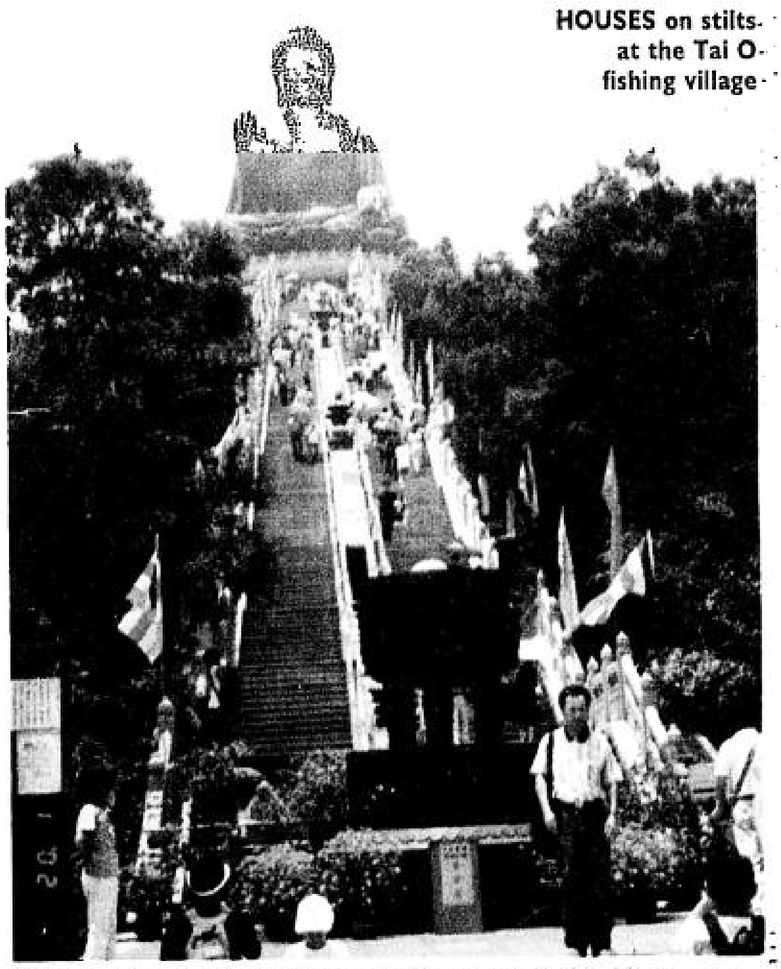
Going to bed while beholding the soothing sight of the harbour and Hong Kong's night lights does marvels to one's tired body.

Grand Stanford is offering until October "Summer Sizzler" accommodation packages starting at HK$800 per room per night. More than 250 of the 579 rooms and suites have views of the harbour.



PANDA An An in his air-conditioned pen at Ocean Park

ROOM looking out to Victoria Harbour



THE 33-METER-HIGH bronze Buddha at the Po Lin Monastery

Like being in first class

THIS was the thought that came to mind when I took Cathay Pacific's new business class.

The cabins of the Airbus A330s and 340s have been redesigned—the number of seats reduced to a 2-2-2 configuration (no more middle third seats).

Each seat allows passengers to stretch out to a full six feet, three inches at an incline of 13 degrees. The seats are 20.5 inches wide, excluding the generous armrests and cocktail tray area.

The headrest in the seats adjusts in six different ways and the lumbar support has four different adjustments. Each seat is surrounded by a privacy cocoon to prevent sleepers from being disturbed by passengers seated behind and beside them.

The pillows (larger than the average ones in most airlines) are covered with cotton on one side and silk on the other, so passengers have a choice.

There is a coat hook at every seat, a larger meal table, and a secondary table in front of each seat. The latter provides extra workspace and allows passengers to get up without having to clear away books, laptops or snacks.

Each seat has a USB data socket for access to e-mail and Web content from selected news, sport and entertainment sites in-flight.

In-flight entertainment has been improved with Studio^{CX}. Noise canceling headsets give passengers crystal-clear audio for the many available channels of music, television and movies.

The 10.4-inch personal TV screen is almost double the size in the older business class screens. Passengers can select which movie they want, when they want to watch it.

For long-haul flights, the new business class has a private bar that offers an area where passengers can mingle and relax while enjoying a wide selection of drinks and snacks.

Some aircraft also have a private dressing room, with a full-length mirror, coat hooks and foldable seats.

Cathay Pacific has opened a second lounge at the northwest end of the Hong Kong International Airport for business class and first class passengers.

The Pier has a juice bar, daybreak rooms, three bars and two restaurants, 60 broadband-connected computers, and a wireless LAN for laptop computers. It also has a Noodle Bar, which has proven extremely popular with the users of Cathay's first lounge, The Wing.

The Pier also has 11 private shower suites. ***Stella O. Gonzales***

COMFORT plus at Cathay Pacific's new business class

Shall we get away?

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DRAMATIC view is just icing on the cake.

BUSTLING Makati seems an unlikely place for a getaway. But with the opening of this glass-and-marble marvel, such a getaway is possible right in the middle of the country's prime financial district.

Fraser Place-Manila recently opened its world-famous serviced residences in twin towers located at the Forbes Tower on Valero Street in Salcedo Village, 15 minutes away from everything that one needs to, as the need arises, escape from or quickly reach.

While the place is intended for expatriates and business travelers on long stays, the Fraser experience can be as memorable as a one- or two-night stand. To make tired souls feel "cared for, pampered and spoiled in a fashion beyond that to which (they) are accustomed," as the brochure says.

Each of the 148 spacious suites has that tropical Zen design that can soothe the spirit of harried executives, young professionals at the crossroads of their lives, couples taking a leave from the demands of parenting, or just anyone who deserves a break.

Lifestyle packages for guests staying at least a month are available for a minimal charge. The homemaker's package comes with baking equipment, mini food processor and juice extractor; the Asian kitchen package, a complete Chinese cooking and dining set; the kiddie dream package, a playroom showcase, including a supply of videotapes, board games and comic books; the home-office package, an Internet-ready laptop, fax machine and diskettes.

Carlo Gomez, general manager of Fraser Place-Manila, says guests (whom they call "residents") are "not just another number on another door in another floor of a hotel," but a class that deserves to be pampered.

Upon entering their unit, they are greeted by the subtle scent of aromatic candles. The softly gushing Zen table fountain complements the watercolor canvas in the living room lounge, which boasts a complete home audio system including a 29-inch flat-screen TV and DVD set.

The units—from one-bedroom to four-bedroom, sizes ranging from 168 to 530 square meters—are fully furnished, although long-staying residents are allowed to bring in their personal facilities. Tema Inc., Fraser Place's Singapore-based resident designer, took care of the minimalist interior that imparts just that touch of lightness and functionality characteristic of all Fraser serviced residences.

And security is hardly a problem, as each unit is equipped with a video intercom system, a smoke detector and water sprinklers, an emergency alarm system and an emergency exit with a steel-enforced fire-resistant door leading to direct escape routes.

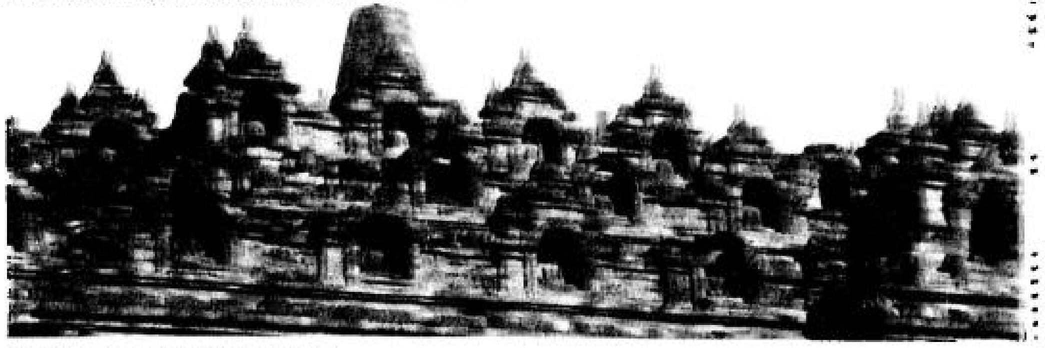
The gym and fitness area with a sauna facility, the outdoor swimming pool on the 31st floor of the east tower, the sun terraces and gardens, the barbecue area, or the jacuzzi found in every unit—all provide a variety of choices for a pampered day.

At night, residents wishing to unwind can have a drink or two at the bar, thematically located on a terraced orchard. Or should one wish to be at-home for the evening, dinner can be served in one's suite, where one can enjoy a dramatic view of the skyline through the floor-to-ceiling windows.

For those who need to go out, whether for a business meeting or a shopping trip, limousine service is available. Those who prefer more casual transport may take the shuttle service that rounds the Makati Central Business District every hour on the hour.

The rates—$100 to $200 a night—are "negotiable" depending on the unit and the length of stay, says Gomez.

Around 50 expatriates and journalists attended the recent launch and tour of Fraser Place-Manila, which is expected to live up to the standards set by the Fraser serviced apartments in London, Seoul and Singapore, whose occupancy rates average 90 percent and rakes in $24 million annually.



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The photographs that accompanied the article "Bliss in Borobudur" (Travel, May 5, 2002) were taken by Marissa Espino. We regret the inadvertent omission of the photo credit.

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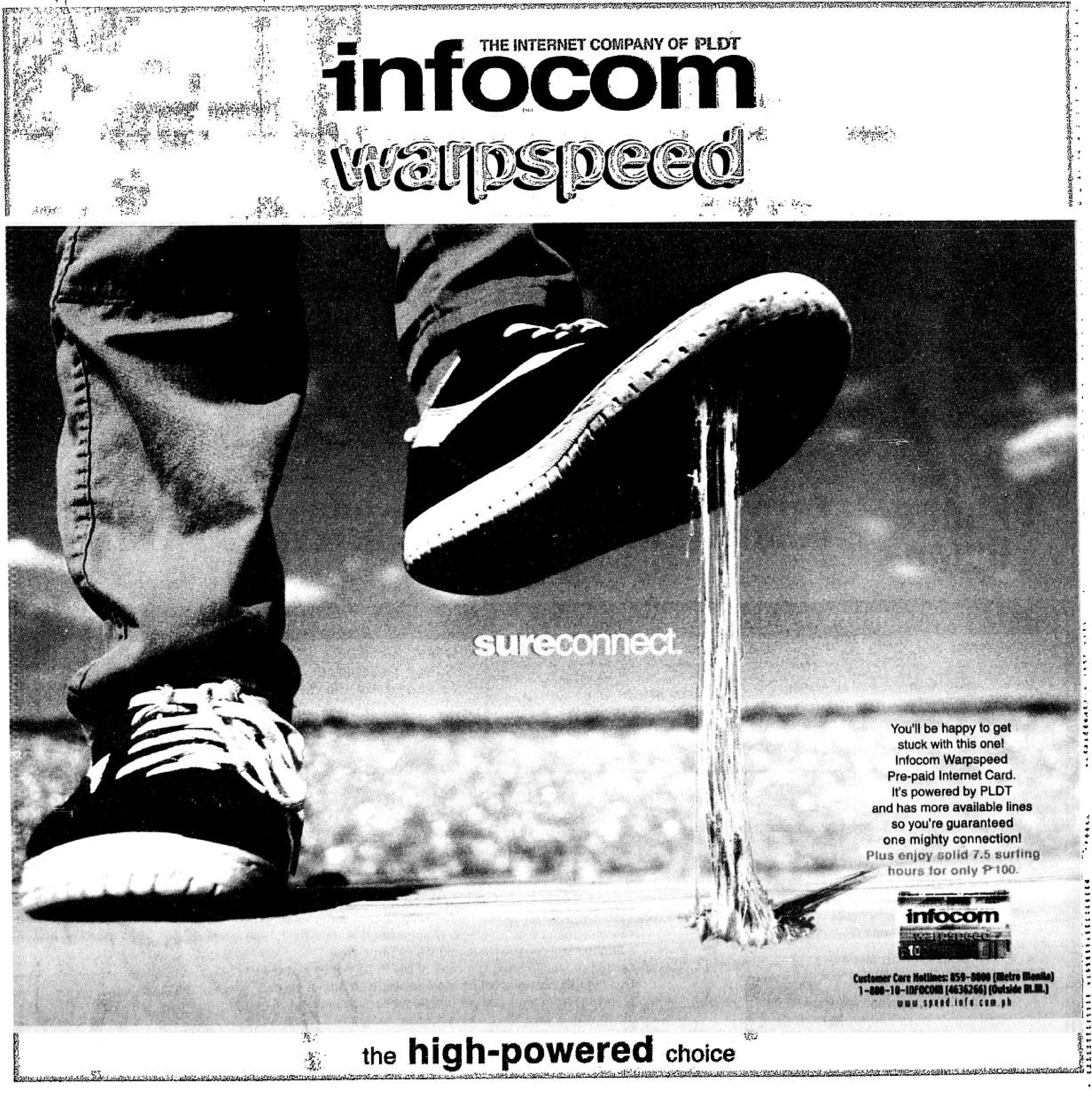

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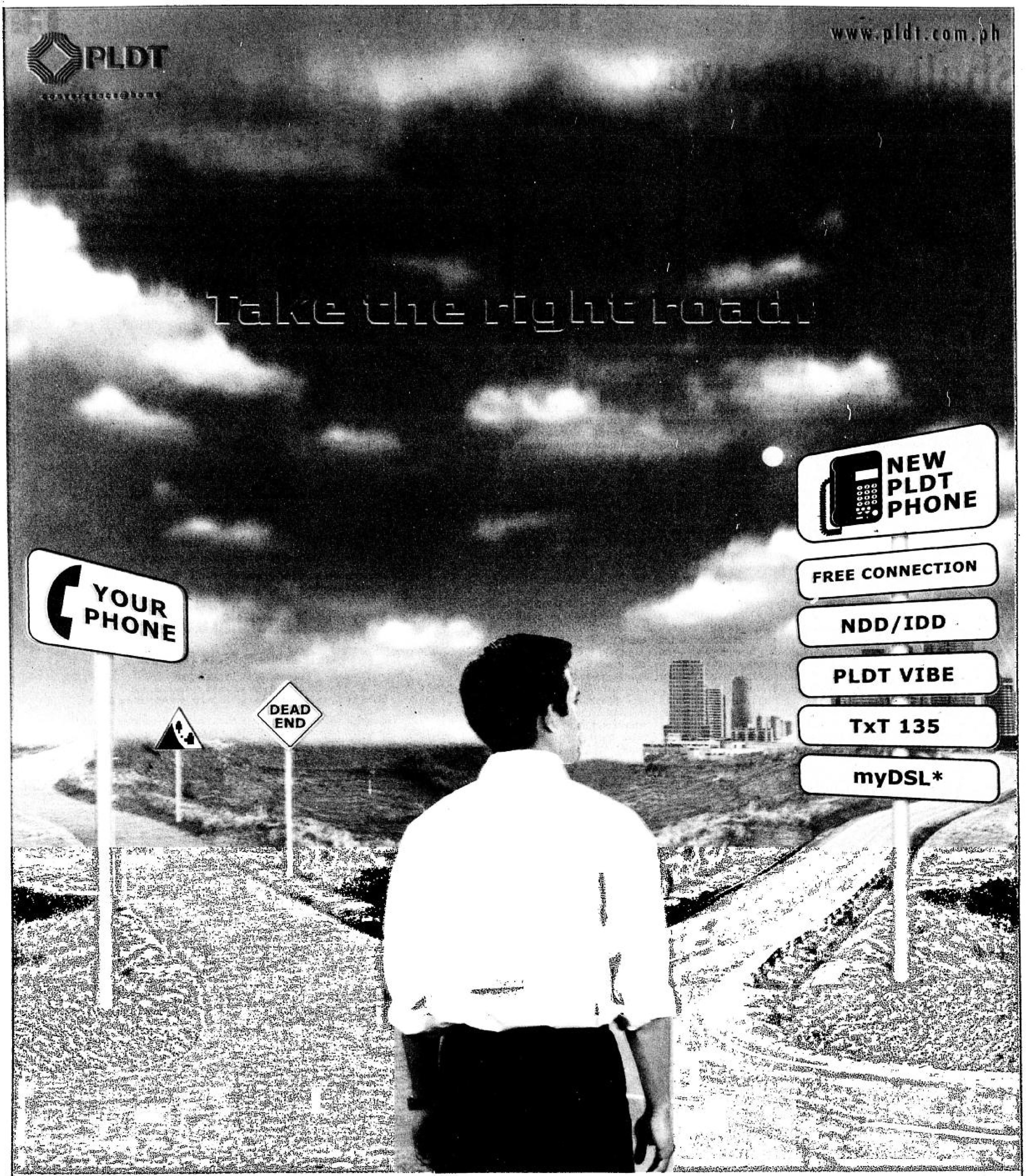

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

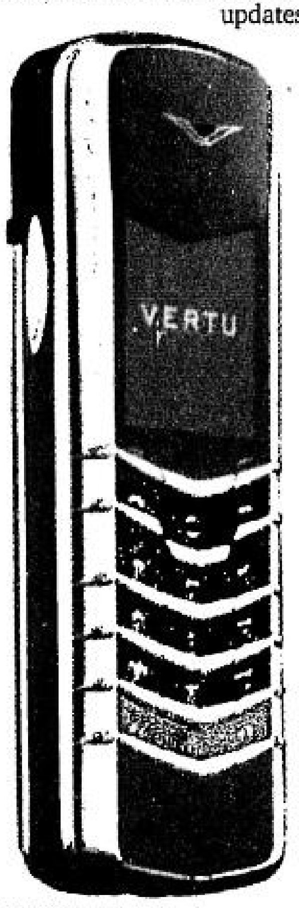
Luxury phone, Liza Minnelli's size 10 ego, and Stephen Gan's triumph

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

MUST-HAVE phone—Vertu. This is the phone for the person who has everything, but who wants more. Vertu combines breakthrough technology and world-class craftsmanship (sleek casings in platinum, white or yellow gold, and stainless steel). The phone also utilizes a scratch-resistant face made from the finest sapphire.

I spoke to **Suguna Madhavan**, VP of Vertu Asia Pacific, and she told me other amazing and exciting features of the phone. "It can be used all over the world and has a concierge feature that offers emergency assistance, travel updates, hotel and restaurant reservations, travel news to any city you are in, all at a touch of a dial."



VERTU. This is the most eagerly anticipated phone to date.

It also can arrange anything, from a day pass to a New York gym, to entry into an exclusive London club and appointment with an English-speaking lawyer, or doctor in a non-English-speaking country.

This is the perfect phone for people with a global lifestyle, somebody who is accustomed to luxury, style and privacy.

To get a view of this technology, appointments can be made at Vertu's Hong Kong office at 657-232334. Visit www.vertu. com.

How to win $5 million. The US Embassy last Thursday released a statement offering $5 million to anyone who had information that could lead to the capture of five Abu Sayyaf leaders.

I automatically linked the announcement to a game show I enjoyed. I focused on the reward money (I wondered if it was tax-free) and multiplied it by 50. Hmm, not bad. I imagined I was a bounty-hunter heading off to the lush jungles of Mindanao with a troop behind me to capture the Abu Sayyaf.

I had to stop there because I realized, even if I had the guts to go there and get info about these people, what would I wear? Worse, would the Nenuco mosquito repellant work in the jungle?

As much as I wanted the $5 million, maybe the troop following me would probably behead me once I obtain the lead, so that they could keep the loot.

Well, the whole daydream ended since I had to go to work and get up (imagine the sound of the toilet flushing).

Seriously now, this is a major issue. The Abu Sayyaf menace explains the state of our economy. If the US Balikatan troops and Pinoy army can't catch the terrorists, maybe money can.

TNT tidbits

Wallpaper editor resigns. Tyler Brule has resigned as editorial and creative director of the Wallpaper Group. He is leaving the publishing company he founded after clashing with the new owners.

"The Devil Wears Prada." Before you think it's about your best friend, this is the title of the book that a former Vogue editorial assistant to **Anna Wintour**, the most powerful woman in the fashion press, has penned. The book describes an editorial assistant's life with an overbearing, dictatorial magazine editor. The book is set for release next summer.

I'm a size 10. Newlywed **Liza Minnelli** ordered a trouser suit from designer **Michael Kors,** with a catch that the original size sewn on the suit (which was 14) be changed to a size 10. Now that's a liar, but still a diva.

Fashion award. Congratulations to Fil-Am **Stephen Gan**, creative director of Harper's Bazaar and editor of V magazine and Visionnaire book, for being honored by the Council of Fashion Designers of America with the Creative Visionary Award. Check out this month's Harper's Bazaar for the award.

"Sex and the City" in Hong Kong. I received numerous invitations to the HBO "Sex and the City" party tour here in Manila. Compared to Asian countries, we are very much behind in party ideas. It's probably the tight budget or the jaded minds. In Hong Kong, when they launched the new season of "Sex and the City," they had someone from the cast brought over.

My good friend, the beautiful **Audrey Puckett Chiu**, was chosen to be one of the judges for this shindig and was made to dress up in head-to-toe Dior (one of the sponsors of the event).

The special guest who flew in from New York was no less than **Chris Noth**—Mr. Big! Audrey said that he was a real charmer and very good-looking. Lucky girl! I wonder when we could finally have events like that. Here's all I can say: "Release the **Burnhams**!"

Electricity blues. I am joining the chorus of complaints about the high electricity rates. I was shocked to find out that my bill has increased by about 150 percent for two months now. What about the days when there was a power failure? Am I being charged for electricity-less days?

One of the news shows recently focused on poor Filipinos who live in shanties who still have to pay for their electricity. The small amount they earn goes to paying their electricity instead of food.

I am sure Meralco has an explanation for the high rates, but the matter has to be resolved soon so that the suffering will stop. Calling Madame President.

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

VISIONARY AWARD. This month, Fil-Am Stephen Gan will be awarded by the Council of Fashion Designers of America.

MR. BIG IN HONG KONG. As part of the celebration of "Sex and the City," Mr. Big himself, Chris Noth, goes to HK and makes a huge impression!

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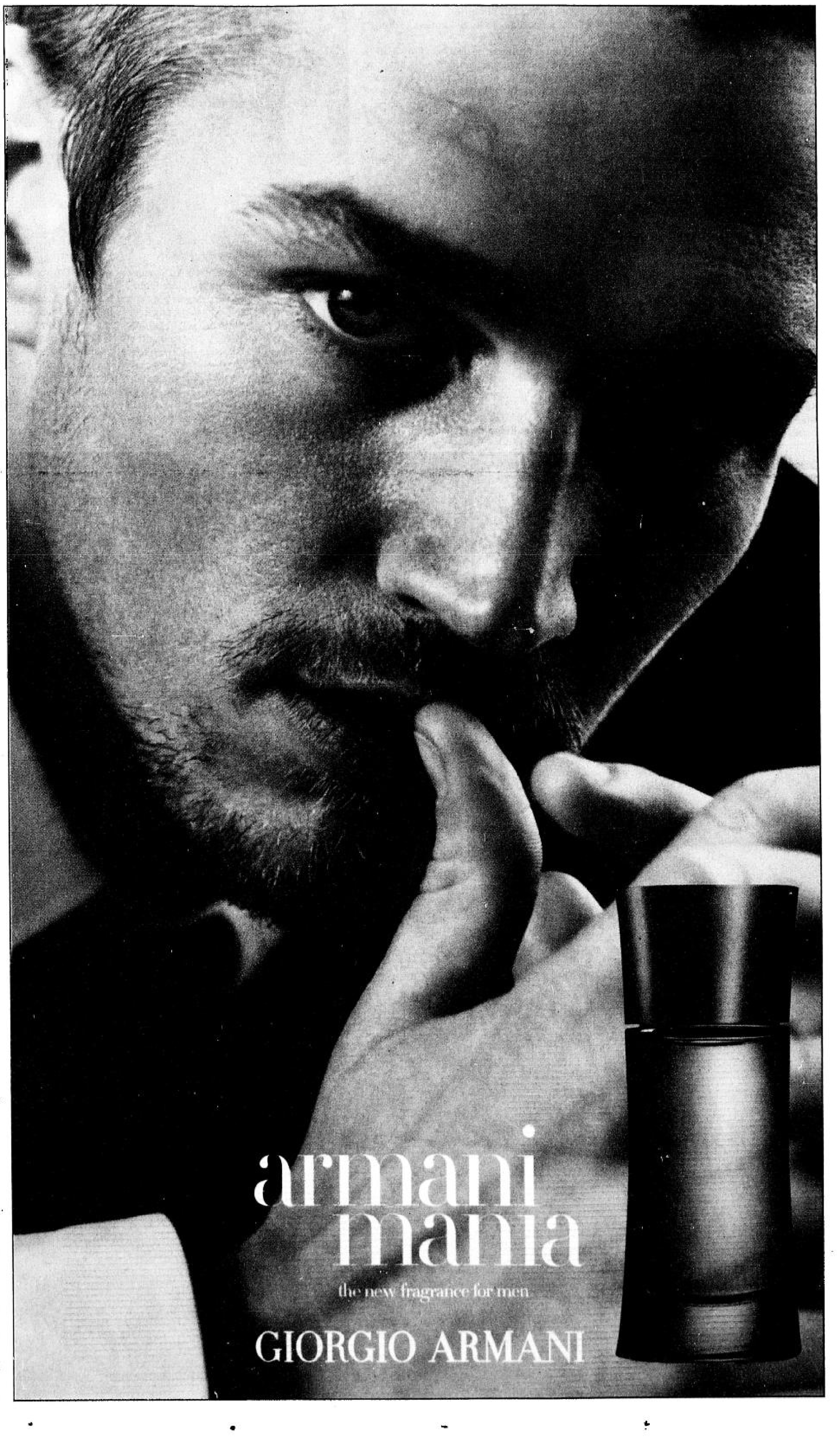

2 Santacruzans make May a merry month in Cebu

CEBU witnessed another dazzling Santacruzan. Now on its 15th year, the Quota International ladies' Santacruzan was for a worthy cause: to raise funds to help hearing-impaired children from needy families. An unprecedented P1.4 million was raised through the sale of raffle tickets, and outright donations from Cebu's most prominent families.

Happiest was Almyra Yapjoco, current treasurer of the organization and overall chair of this year's Santacruzan. She was ably assisted by immediate past president Pilar Puno and her mother-in-law, Zenaida Yapjoco, also a former president.

The event started with a solemn mass of thanksgiving at the Seminary College chapel attended by the Quotarians, all dressed in blue and white *kimona't patadyong*, and participants in the procession. Elaborate flower arches waiting for the parade to begin filled the seminary's grounds with splashes of color.

The procession wound its way through Juan Luna Avenue and straight to the sweeping driveway of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. Hotel guests applauded as it passed through the immense lobby in the direction of the grand ballroom.

Reina Emperatriz of the Quota Santacruzan 2002 was Gloria Gaisano, who was escorted in the procession by her son Joey. Later at the coronation dais, husband Joseph Gaisano stood beside her. Reina Elena was Janice Bañez Minor, escorted by her brother Jed Bañez. Vincent Benjamin Lindo marched as the Emperador Constantino.

Little angels

Kris Tiffany Janson was Reina de las Flores. Her court consisted of Mary Christine Paredes, Reina Esperanza; Nicole Erika Cordero, Reina Mora; and Princess Ann Lim, Reina Banderada. A scene stealer was pretty little Danielle Tan who, as Reina de los Angeles, was attended to by 11 angelic darlings—Myka Corro, Meiji Bascar, Nicole Ang, Erika Gepitane, Klareza Quiñanola, Hitomi Oshima, Jerrica Herrera, Christelle Remilla, Ma. Patricia Cirunay, Erika Alix and Rosean Fontanosa.

Seven little princes marched in the court of the Emperador Constantino—Niño de los Reyes, Miguel Sa-a, Ivan Chua, Paolo de Pio, Jacob Lagman, Jandall Go and Aldrich Gonzaga.

After the sumptuous buffet dinner, there were songs and dances, a performance by hearing-impaired children, a stylized *rigodon* by the participants, and the coronation rites. Marcia Lozada Godinez, the current Quota president in Cebu, was all praises in her welcome remarks.

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

VIPs present included Talisay City Mayor Eddie Gullas who, with his wife Norma, crowned the Reina Emperatriz; Quota district governor Ma. Carmen Sobrepeña, who crowned the Reina de las Flores assisted by Cebu City acting mayor Michael Rama; Region VII Tourism director Dawn Roa who, with Shangri-La's GM Ben Bousnina, crowned the Reina Elena; and Dominic and Alma Garcia, who crowned the Emperador Constantino.

The Quotarians did a great job starting with Marcia and Almyra, and on to president-elect Sophia Mancao, who will be sworn into office this June; secretary Evelyn Ramirez, who did an excellently documented souvenir program; assistant treasurer Malu Veloso, who headed the finance committee; auditor Lourdes Manigos; PRO Corazon Cañete; and the directors—Juliet Chan, Fely Gimarino, Lourdes Parker, Cecilia Raborar, Pinky Shan, Cecilia Umbay and Sylvia Young.

Charter president of the Cebu Quota, Lygia Ibañez, was congratulated for being hands-on in this endeavor. She was assisted by Socorro Codilla, who always gets the search committee.

KRIS Janson, Reina de las Flores

REINA ELENA

JANICE Bañez Minor, Reina Elena

DANIELLE Tan, Reina de los Angeles

Other past presidents who actively participated this year were Josephine Mapeso, Tita Oppus and Tina Corominas, who had just arrived from the USA. She's off again soon to organize another Quota club, this time in Tampa, Florida.

The members helped a lot, too. To mention some: Mary Abad, who headed the invitations committee and stood at the entrance welcoming everyone; Linda Rana in the reception committee, Merle Bernad Zamora in the liturgy committee, Mary Ann Vargas in the search committee, Maribelle Navarro who, with Maryrose Manghuyop, hosted the program.

REINA EMPERA

REINA Emperatriz Gloria Gaisano, escorted by husband Joseph Gaisano

One more Santacruzan was staged on the last week of May, organized by the Waterfront Airport Hotel in Lapu-Lapu City, on the island of Mactan. It started with a mass at the chapel of the nearby Philippine Air Force base, and culminated in a dinner program at the hotel lobby.

Rep. Nerissa Soon Ruiz reigned as the Reina Emperatriz while celebrated beauty Miriam Quiambao was Reina Elena. Lapu-Lapu City's first lady, Paz Radaza, was Reina del Sol, while Tina Sitoy, first lady of Cordova, which is also on Mactan, was Reina de las Flores. Entertainment was provided by dancers from the University of Cebu.

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BEN Chan

Fashion leader strikes Gold

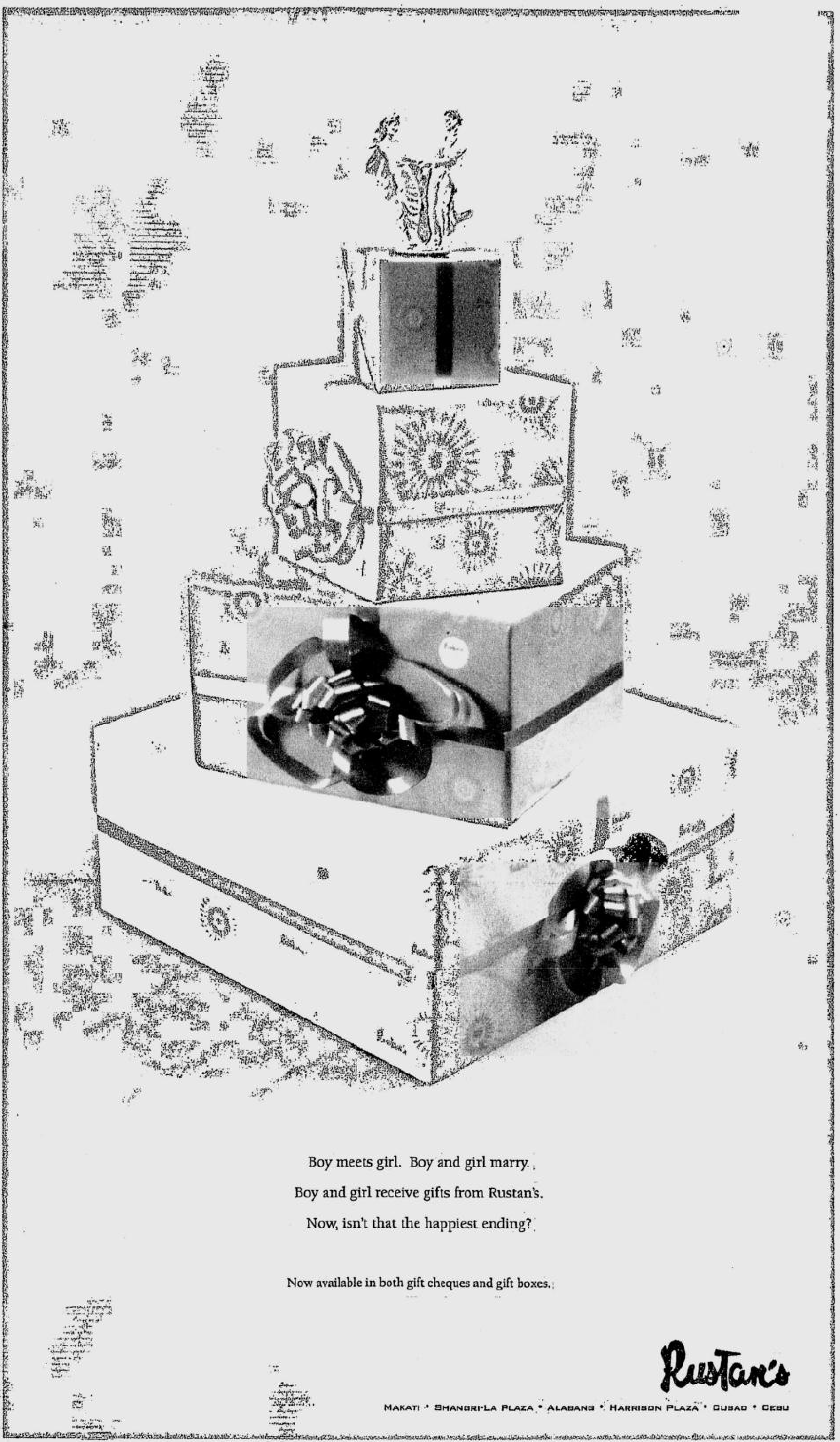
"ONE MUST always be aware of what everybody else is doing so you can plan better strategies," said Ben Chan, who, as CEO and creative director of Bench, is considered one of the major players in the local fashion industry. "It is also very important to know what the consumer wants so you can supply these needs ahead of everybody else."

This business acumen has helped propel Chan to the heights of his business and, consequently, his wealth. With so much demands on his professional life, however, he admits he has no time to personally manage his own finances. "I am too busy to plan anything for myself," he said, adding that this is the reason he appreciates Citibank's CitiGold Wealth Management Banking, a financial serviced for retail banking customers of Citibank.

CitiGold Wealth Planner, a proprietary software designed to give clients like Ben a personalized financial plan based on their assets, investment objectives and risk profile. Ben admits he has more time to pursue his passion for travel. "I get such a high from just planning my itinerary," he exclaims. "I like cities where I can be excited by new, interesting shops and savor outstanding products. At the same time I get inspiration from the streets, checking out what the ordinary people are wearing. My travels are not meant for relaxation but rather, for inspiration."

Time and again, he consults his Wealth Management Team at CitiGold to gain insights on global business developments, financial trends and investment opportunities. It's all part of the comprehensive business suites and highly personalized service from CitiGold that Ben finds very invaluable when making his decisions.

For the future of Bench, Ben paints broad yet excitingly colorful strokes. The boutique is now found all over the country, even as far as Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Middle East, with Guam and China following very soon. The product lines have diversified to include a ladies line, HerBench, a children's line, Bench Brats, body and bath accessories, and even foodstuff with Bench Bytes. Chan's quest to cater to new markets has also resulted in Human clothing store, PCX Boutiques, which sell cosmetics, Dimensione home furnishings and Bench FIX Salon.



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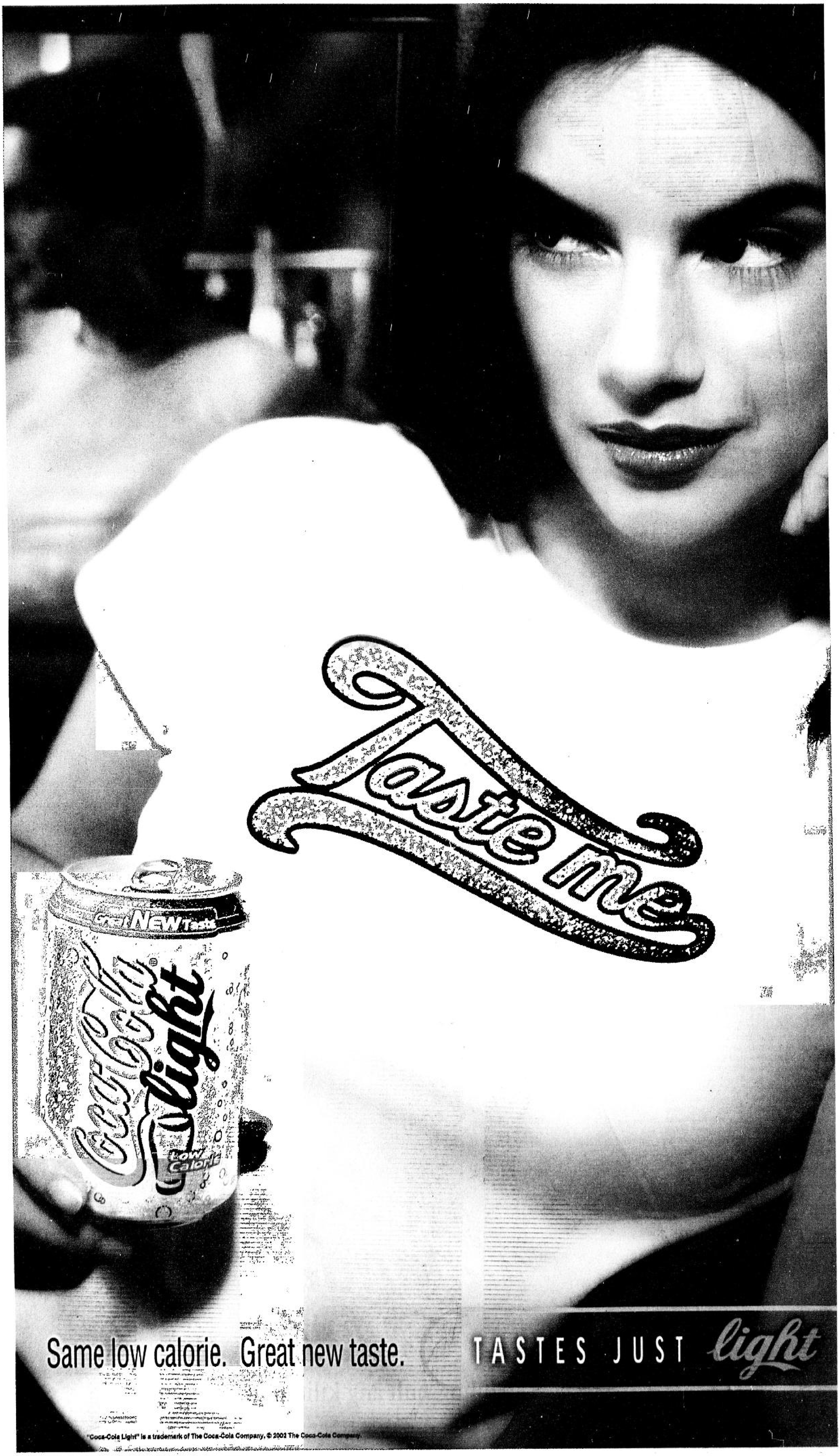
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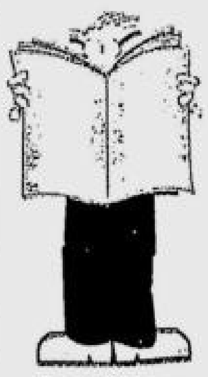

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Under the overall direction of the Deputy Resident Representative and the immediate guidance and supervision of the Programme Support Manager, the incumbent shall be responsible for the development, management and implementation of a communications strategy aimed at building the public image of UNDP. He/she is expected undertake the following tasks:

General - Spearhead planning for both internal/external communication and advocacy for the Country Office; ensure that communication objectives/outputs are monitored and evaluated for effectiveness through periodic audience surveys, media scanning/analysis and other mechanisms; inform management of public attitudes/ concerns of different groups and organizations (including donors, media and project partners) that UNDP deals with; coordinate organization-wide efforts at communicating core messages about UNDP goals/thrusts and programmes/projects by advising, recommending or guiding concerned staff on specific topics to develop.

Public Relations (including Media Relations): Oversee publicity arrangements by designing strategies that promote/support UNDP; coordinate/manage a team of Programme/ Administrative staff and media bureau services for media and advocacy support in relation to formulating internal/external advocacy messages and strategy; arrange/conduct programmes for contact between the organization representatives and the public, such as setting up speaking engagements, preparing speeches, planning/organizing conventions, making films, slides or other visual presentations, etc.; deal with advertising companies/production houses as necessary; may contact people in the media who might print or broadcast material on public issues of interest to the organization.

Publications: Act as editor of UNDP publications and other information materials/media; plan contents of newsletters or e-news and supervise its preparation, decide what will appeal to readers, assign topics to staff, and oversee production of publication.

Website and intranet: Oversee the development and management of the website, intranet and information databases in coordination with the Information Assistant.

Requirements: Master's degree in Communications or development-related field; 5-7 years' experience in communication and advocacy, as well as media relations; working knowledge of development organizations; working knowledge of website development and database management through the use of MS applications and design tools; very good inter-personal and communication skills; excellent organization and planning skills; thorough understanding of UNDP thrusts, policies and procedures

The candidate will receive a salary of at least P67,000 per month, depending on his/her background and work experience, and will participate in the pension plan and medical insurance plan.

INFORMATION ASSISTANT

Under the overall guidance of the Programme Support Manager and the direct supervision of the Communication Specialist, the incumbent shall be responsible for the implementation of the internal communications strategy and supporting the implementation of the external communication strategy aimed at building the public image of UNDP. He/she is expected to undertake the following tasks:

Internal Communications - Participate in the development and formulation of a Country Office Communication and Advocacy Programme; with the Communication Specialist, assist in the formulation of an internal communications programme consistent with the overall office strategies and organize/monitor/review its implementation.

Intranet, Website and Extranet Development and Management and support to External Communication - Regularly obtain and consolidate feedback from internal users on possible new online services, applications and enhancements; prioritize the roll-out of the new online services, applications, and enhancements in coordination with ultimate users; recommend to Country Office senior management the appropriate responsibility centres for the management of the intranet/website/extranet assigned to the communication and advocacy unit and monitor the performance/compliance of responsibility centres; manage the orientation and training of users and responsibility centres on the use of online services, applications and enhancements.

Requirements: Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication, Journalism or other related discipline; 3-5 years' experience in communication and advocacy, as well as media relations; working knowledge of website development and database management through; the use of MS applications and design tools; working knowledge of development organizations; good organizational and planning skills; thorough understanding of UNDP thrusts, policies and procedures.

The successful candidate will receive a salary of at least P34,000 per month, depending on his/her background and work experience, and will participate in the pension plan and medical insurance plan.

Applicants for either posts are requested to complete a Personal History Form (P.11), available on our website www.undp.org.ph (click on UNDP Philippines>Jobs) and send to hrd.ph@undp.org on or before 15 JUNE 2002. Kindly note that only completed P.11 forms will be reviewed.

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer and invites Filipino nationals to apply for the post.

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2. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- preferably female, not more than 35 years old
- at least 5'4" in height
- preferably 4 year secretarial course graduate from a reputable school
- with excellent scholastic records and proficient in computer
- with excellent oral and written communication skills
- with pleasing personality

3. BUILDING A/C TECHNICIAN / ELECTRICIAN

- technical school graduate major in air-con and electrical
- male, not more than 35 years old
- must have at least 2-3 years experience in electrical/air-con aspects
- hardworking, dependable and willing to work for long hours
- physically fit

4. AUTOMOTIVE / AIR-CON TECHNICIAN

- male, not more than 27 years old
- graduate of automotive or any other related course
- with 3 years experience in the same field of work
- hardworking, patient and willing to work for long hours
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So don't miss this kind of opportunity! Interested applicants may apply and send or bring their resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photograph at:

TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS
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214 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
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NOTE: PREVIOUS APPLICANT NEED NOT APPLY.

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5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

Rustan's

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RETAIL MANAGER

☑ Male, at least 25 years old
☑ Graduate of a (4) four-year degree course
☑ Preferably with work experience in boutique operations
☑ With strong leadership and excellent communication skills
☑ Highly presentable, results-oriented, proficient in computers
☑ Willing to work on weekends and holidays

HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

☑ Female, at least 26 years old
☑ Graduate of Business Management or any Social Science course, preferably with inclinations in business
☑ Minimum of one (1) year experience in human resources focusing on career development, training or compensation and benefits
☑ With strong leadership qualities, high initiative and organizational skills
☑ Must have the potential to work in all areas of HR with minimum supervision
☑ Must be people-oriented, mature, analytical and highly motivated
☑ Must be able to adapt to a fast working environment
☑ Proficient in English communication and computer programs

DIRECT MAIL/AD & PROMO COORDINATOR

☑ Male or female, between 22-25 years old
☑ Graduate of any (4) four-year business course
☑ With one or two years marketing experience
☑ With good background in computer programming

MAKE-UP ARTISTS

☑ Male, female, between 21-30 years old
☑ Graduate of any (4) four-year Business course
☑ At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
☑ Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
☑ Good in oral communication skills

BEAUTY THERAPISTS

☑ Female, between 21-28 years old
☑ 5'2" and above in height
☑ With pleasing personality and clear complexion
☑ Graduate of Nursing or Physical Therapy
☑ With good communication skills
☑ Preferably near Alabang area

Interested applicants may apply personally to:

RUSTAN'S HEAD OFFICE
G/F Rustan Building, EDSA, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 727-0206 loc. 2210/2208 look for Lanie/Anna/Beth

Applicants may be accommodated from Monday to Thursday between 8-12 nn

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UPLiFT *Philippines*

URBAN PROGRAM FOR LIVELIHOOD FINANCE & TRAINING (UPLIFT)

A Filipino Non-Government Organization specialized in Micro-Finance with community-based programs in Caloocan, Manila, Quezon Cities and Bulacan (San Jose del Monte City), and a Network of 10 NGOs operating in Luzon and Visayas, is in need of:

IN UPLIFT NETWORK

FINANCE & ADMIN MANAGER (FAM)

☐ Good communications skills, written and oral
☐ Ability to handle people and establish good coordination with the NGO members
☐ Creative, resourceful and can work under minimal supervision
☐ BS Accountancy Graduate (good in FS analysis), computer literate
☐ Knowledge in IT, Finance and Admin matters and Fund Sourcing

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR (FAC)

☐ Good communications skills, written and oral
☐ Ability to handle people and establish good coordination with the NGOs, esp. accounting staff
☐ BS Accountancy Graduate, ability to teach financial/accounting skills
☐ Computer literate

OPERATIONS MANAGER (OM)

☐ Business Course Graduate
☐ Good communication and analytical skills
☐ Creative, resourceful and can work under minimal supervision
☐ Ability to handle a team training the member NGOs on their field operations
☐ Experience in micro finance

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING COORDINATOR (SDTC)

☐ Social Science Graduate or any related course
☐ Good communication skills, written and oral, excellent facilitating skills
☐ Ability to assess and design training needs and quality manuals
☐ Computer literate

COMMUNICATION AND FUND SOURCING OFFICER (CFSO)

☐ In charge of external communication and fund raising for UPLiFT and its Network
☐ In charge of promoting and selling Network services to potential buyers
☐ Excellent communication skills, written and oral (English). Can work autonomously.
☐ Proficiency in Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
☐ Preferably graduate in communication or marketing course.

NOTE: Network Staffs are based in Caloocan City but must be willing to travel in Luzon and Visayas, must be able to work autonomously and be good team players.

IN CALOOCAN

HR ASSISTANT (HRA)

☐ Psychology graduate
☐ Good knowledge in WINDOWS application and preferably Adobe PageMaker
☐ Assists Human Resource Department in recruitment and non payroll tasks
☐ In charge of internal communication through UPLiFT newsletter

INTERNAL AUDIT TEAM LEADER (IATL)

☐ Based in Caloocan, working on all UPLiFT units (Metro Manila and Bulacan area)
☐ Minimum BS Accountancy, or another business course with strong experience in accounting
☐ Good knowledge in micro-finance processes (field and accounting related)
☐ Capacity to manage a small team

UPLiFT TREASURER (UT)

☐ In charge of treasury, cash management, budget for all UPLiFT units
☐ Preferably graduate of BS Accountancy, or another business course.
☐ Preferably knowledgeable of micro-finance processes (field and accounting related)
☐ Strong autonomy is required, especially in order to reinforce the Treasury department

IN QUEZON CITY

ACCOUNTANT(ACC)

☐ Graduate of BS Accountancy, or another business course with strong experience in accounting
☐ Fast-learner, in order to learn specific micro-finance accounting
☐ 30 year-old below
☐ Good autonomy in recording transactions and preparing financial statements

IN BULACAN

FINANCE & ADMIN MANAGER (FAM)

☐ BS Accountancy, or another business course with strong experience in accounting
☐ Good managerial skills, strong capacity in organization
☐ Computer literate , good communications skills, written and oral
☐ Previous experience in micro-finance or banking field is an advantage

ALL APPLICANTS MUST SHOW DEEP SOCIAL COMMITMENT AND A STRONG MOTIVATION TO WORK WITH AN NGO WHERE THE MAIN REWARD IS THE FULLFILMENT TO WORK WITH YOUNG AND PASSIONATE PEOPLE TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION OF MORE THAN 20,000 FAMILIES IN THE MOST DEPRESSED COMMUNITIES.

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We are among the country's leading corporate-led social development foundations. Since 1970, we have been committed to making a strategic contribution to improve the quality of life of the under privileged Filipinos by promoting business sector commitment to social development and harnessing resources for innovative programs that lead to self-reliance and sustainable development.

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FOUNDATION AFFAIRS MANAGER

The Task
Develops and oversees the implementation of the Foundation's development communications and special fund campaign activities and programs, and provides direct supervision to the staff of the Foundation Affairs.

The Requirements
Master's degree in Communications or related field is a preference but not required. At least 5 years experience in communications work, fund campaign and program management. With 3 years in a supervisory/managerial capacity. Excellent communication skills. Fluent in both English & Filipino. Adequate knowledge in technical layout/design, computer software and audio-video or print production, and good presentation skills. With thorough comprehension of corporate citizenship and social development principles. Has excellent leadership and interpersonal skills. Excellent Planning, Leading, Organizing, Controlling, and Evaluating Skills.

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

The Task
Reporting to the Executive Director, the position will ensure the effective and efficient management of the financial, human, and physical resources of the Foundation.

The Requirements
A Certified Public Accountant with a post-graduate degree or (10) years of equivalent experience. With thorough knowledge of Financial Management, Human Resource Development and Building Administration. At least 5 years Managerial experience in the areas of operations management, human resource development, financial management & organizational development, preferably in a social development setting. Capable of building and maintaining positive relationships with the Management Team, Staff at various levels and other external publics. Excellent negotiation, verbal and written communication, facilitation and platform skills.

Kindly forward your resume, copy of diploma, TOR and photo to

THE HRD MANAGER
Philippine Business for Social Progress
3/F Philippine Social Development Center
Magallanes cor. Real Sts. Intramuros, Manila
Tel: 527-7741 to 51 Fax: 527-3743
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A candidate must be a fresh graduate with a bachelor's degree in Marketing Management or similer course, belonging to the upper 10% of his/her graduating batch. This person should have an active participation in various on and off-campus organizations with a substantial leadership exposure. The candidate must possess an excellent level of oral and written communication skills both in English and Filipino. A person with a high level of self confidence and a great deal of passion for success and career growth.

Interested applicants may send their resumé to:

Human Resources Department
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We will respond to qualified candidates only.

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Effective communication in the workplace

By Ernesto G. Espinosa

(The author is currently the President of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP). He is also the assistant vice president, HRD and general affairs of Fujitsu Computer Products Corp. of the Philippines.)

COMMUNICATION is very vital in any organization. One's ability to communicate effectively is a must especially if the person holds a responsible position. Whenever we attend meetings, participate in e-fora, prepare written reports, respond to letters sent to us, makes speeches, etc., the sad part is that many of us do not know how to communicate properly. Over the years, many experts have observed that English communication has somehow deteriorated compared to the time of our grandparents. Some blame educational institutions for their failure to effectively enforce among students the importance of effective communication. Others fault the media for having allowed the proliferation of *Taglish* (*Tagalog* English) in our day-to-day communication. And still others think that Filipinos in general have the distinct characteristic of making it a pastime to make fun of people's wrong grammar.

Basic sentence construction

It is very surprising that nowadays, there are several employees who cannot even complete one sentence without violating the very simple subject-predicate agreement. Examples, "He does not goes to the church every Sunday" and "Hope these helps." The subject-predicament agreement is awful!

I recall that in the late 1960s, there was the much-publicized story about a matinee idol whose English became a sensation with his famous line, "The chambermaid is well-lighted." (apparently referring to "chandelier"). In the late 1990s, a famous comedian even had a movie, "I Love You Three Times a Day" and with his one-liner, "Take a lot of ingat" (Take care). And of course, who would ever forget the book which had made somebody very famous and catapulted him to the highest office which his handlers, as extensively covered by media and circulated in all leading newspapers, admit all happened by design? Rightly or wrongly, in any part of the world, only the Filipino seems to have the penchant for making fun of other people's broken, crooked or wrong English. Filipinos even refer to this kind of English as "carabao English."

Business correspondences versus personal letters

Mistakes usually occur in the preparation of business correspondences. Many employees employ colloquial terms as well as expressions normally used in personal letters. Thus, we see the use of "got" (instead of obtain), "ins and outs" of business (instead of different/various aspects of business), "a lot" of achievements (instead of significant achievements), "don't" (instead of do not), and "it's" (instead of it is).

Collective nouns

Another common mistake is in the use of collective nouns. I recall reporting to an Australian boss once and he sarcastically called my attention for writing in my report that "the XYZ Company employs so many number of people." He reprimanded me for not being able to use the proper tense (employ) since according to him, the Company is a group of people and therefore, my treatment of the word should have been plural, not

EFFECTIVE/ G3

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INVENTORY CREW

- Female, not over 25 years old
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- Female, over 25 years old
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- Knowledge in OMRON / CASIO machine is a must

COUNTER CREW

- Female, not over 25 years old with pleasing personality
- At least 2nd year College and 5'2" in height

Apply immediately in person and bring your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo and any other necessary documents at Unit 15 Midland Manor I (in front of Gate 4, Xavier School) Xavier St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Effective communication...

from page G2

singular. In spite of my explanation to him that XYZ Company is a collective noun and should be treated as singular, he would not listen. He even told me how disappointed he was with me considering my high position in the company.

Redundancy

And then there is the use of repetitive words as when employees say "cope up" instead of cope. Cope means keep up and when one uses cope up, it actually means "keep up up." We also encounter this kind of sentence oftentimes, "It is necessary to give employees the necessary items that they need."

Use or misuse of letter "D"

It is beyond comprehension to read these sentences almost everywhere, "We specialized in vulcanizing", "This is to advised you", "I would like to appealed to you", "We hereby confirmed receipt of your report", "It has already been taken cared of."

And have you seen a memorandum that starts with, "To all concern" or worse, "To all concerns"?

Confusion in the use of the apostrophe

And of course, the erroneous use of apostrophe is well-known. "I like his pen. It's color is dark blue." Or conversely, "Its evening already, time to eat!" The first should not have the apostrophe while the second should have. Wonder why they are always interchanged.

Use or misuse of letter "S"

There are some employees who "pluralize" certain words by putting the letter "s" on them like equipments, staffs, personnels, memorandums, etc.

Conversely, we read the signs, "Unauthorized person, keep out," "Only authorized person are allowed to enter." Oh well.....

Use of prepositions

We also encounter such mistakes as "in March 20", "on the year 2000", "on April". The correct way of course is "on March 20", "in the year 2000" and "in April".

Long-winding sentences

Composing business correspondences starts with an understanding that the readers expect a straightforward business talk or transaction. Therefore, sentences should be direct and concise. We often encounter a business letter, for instance, which is long-winding, the kind that after reading it, one ends up very confused and unable to grasp what it is talking about. I have seen several business correspondences where the paragraphs and sentences can be cut into half as the other half is redundant and meaningless.

Even during interviews, candidates respond to questions which are answerable by yes or no in a long-winding, story-telling fashion.

Action plan to improve

Is there still room for improvement? Yes, only if the employee will take it upon himself to develop an action plan in order to improve.

As the saying goes, "Practice makes perfect." One cannot expect to improve his communication skills by continuously speaking in *Taglish* (*Tagalog* English) every time he attends meetings for fear of making mistakes. As a consolation, some Americans only speak fast but when one observes their tenses, Filipino employees finding difficulty to communicate can rejoice in the fact that they are not alone. One has to continuously read books and newspapers, participate in e-fora, attend seminars, watch movies and television talk shows, write minutes of meetings, compose business correspondences. And of course, when reading newspapers and watching talk shows, for instance, an employee has to choose a role model, one whose written or oral communication skills and style he is comfortable with and can adapt as he attempts to improve his own communication skills.

Some readers may criticize us for writing about these. But really, these observations are being brought to fore as a reminder to all of us that there is still significant room for improvement and that effective communication not only inside but outside the workplace is important and should not be ignored.

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He/She must have a thorough grasp of the Philippines Labor laws as well as existing industry standards and practices; must be highly organized, results-oriented, and attentive to details;

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(Code: APM)

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AREA STATION MANAGER

The ideal candidate must be between 28-35 years old and a graduate of any business or liberal arts course. He/She must have 3 years experience in sales supervision, with excellent communication and leadership skills. Area Station Manager supervises assigned station and its staff. Driving skills is also an advantage.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

The ideal candidate must be between 25-28 years old and a graduate of Marketing, Management or Mass Communications. Preferably experienced in account management or exposed in sales or marketing activities for at least one year. He/She must have a pleasing personality with excellent interpersonal and communication skills. The candidate shall be responsible for field sales and management of corporate accounts. Driving skills is an advantage.

RENTAL SALES AGENT

The ideal candidate must be between 21-25 years old and a college graduate of any business or liberal arts course. He/She must have a pleasing personality with good interpersonal and communication skills. He/She must be willing to work on a shifting period. Driving skills is an advantage.

Due to urgency of this requirements, applicants are requested to come personally with their Comprehensive Resumé and one (1) recent passport-size colored photography to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
G & S Transport Corporation
2nd Floor Guevent Commercial Center
54 Libertad corner M. Cruz Street, Mandaluyong City

A leading Company is in need of the following skilled personnel:

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1 Sales Engineer

- ⇨ Mechanical/Electrical Engineering graduate
- ⇨ Male
- ⇨ Willing to be assigned in Mindanao or Visayas
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- ⇨ With valid driver's license

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1 Service & Training Engineer

- ⇨ Male
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We are looking for someone with good communication and people skills; preferably an executive with well-rounded background and experience in Operations, HR and Administration & Marketing and Sales. Business Development function is also critical to the position and knowledge in Finance is an advantage. The person must be challenged to expand the operations of the business and must be target driven.

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Our company is looking for a person who has had at least 4 years experience as a Training Consultant preferably in call center operations. The person must also possess the ability to manage a Training School or an Institute.

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We are in search of a licensed lawyer with at least 2-4 years background in labor and corporate law practice. Knowledge in Personnel and Administration functions is an advantage.

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E-MAIL: btphils@vasia.com **WEBSITE:** www.businesstrends.com.sg

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- ☑ With strong analytical and problem solving skills
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- ☑ Preferably a resident of Central Luzon, Northern Luzon and/or Southern Luzon Regions
- ☑ Willing to travel

AREA MANAGERS

- ☑ Graduate of Business Administration, Management, Economics, Finance, Commerce and other related courses
- ☑ Three (3) years experience in branch credit operations
- ☑ With relevant training on financial viability, branch scaling with expansion and delinquency control and management

UNIT MANAGERS

- ☑ Preferably graduate of Marketing, Finance, Economics
- ☑ At least 2-3 years related work experience
- ☑ Computer literate and knowledgeable in software application
- ☑ Above average communication skills

CREDIT OFFICERS

- ☑ Graduate of any 4-year course
- ☑ 1-2 years previous experience in marketing or sales
- ☑ Computer literate
- ☑ Average communication and writing skills

For all positions, the applicant must be willing to be assigned in any of the following areas: Metro Manila, Zambales, Benguet Province, Pangasinan, La Union, Bicol, Davao, Cebu, and Iloilo.

Interested applicants are requested to mail their resumé to:

Code: QC 2002-70
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Building
891 Aurora Building corner Oxford Street
Cubao, Quezon City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

• LICENSED RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

- Female, not more than 30 years of age;
- Must know how to operate xray machine & ultrasound;
- Computer literate.

• REGISTERED MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

- Female, not more than 26 years of age;
- With 6 months up to 1 year work experience in the same capacity;
- Must be computer literate with excellent communication skills.

• REGISTERED NURSES

- Not more than 30 years of age;
- Must have at least 6 months to one year work experience;
- Must be able to work with minimum supervision;
- Computer literate with good communication skills.

**We are also looking for accounting clerk and graduates of medical course*

Interested applicants may personally submit their resumé, 2x2 picture, transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
MEDICard Philippines, Inc.
5/F Sagittarius Bldg.
H.V. Dela Costa Street
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Email: laguila@medicardphils.com

(Previous applicants need not apply)

Rx
MEDICard

You should be here.

With leading competence
in quality management systems,
a pool of professionals dedicated to
performing beyond expectations, for the
continuous improvement of organizational
performance and the satisfaction of clients
who will receive them - with ROSEHALL
being all these, why should a
highly-qualified
consultant like you
be anywhere else?

consultants / experts
Male or Female, at least 30 years old
With at least 2 years training/consulting experience on standard-based management systems, productivity, TQM, PQA, HR, etc.
Management experience in any industry an advantage
Has own transportation, Flexible, Willing to travel
Full-time or part-time engagement

business development managers / assistants
Experience in selling services particularly in training/consulting firms is a plus
Ability to drive a car preferred

consulting / training associates
Must be experienced in preparation of visual materials and in work coordination
Proficient in MS Word, Powerpoint and Excel
With at least 1 year working experience as office assistant

bookkeeper
Accounting graduate from a reputable university
At least 2 years experience desired

Send us your
comprehensive resumé
with a colored 2"x2" photo to

ROSEHALL Management
Consultants Inc.
1405 Prestige Tower
Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center
Pasig City

or email us at
rosehall@info.com.ph

ANNOUNCEMENT OF JOB OPENING

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

The Community-Based Coastal Resource Management-Resource Center (CBCRM-RC), a non-government organization (NGO) involved in research, advocacy, training, organizing and networking activities in support of the empowerment of coastal communities is looking for a person to fill up the position of:

INFORMATION SPECIALIST

for its
CBCRM Learning and Research Network (CBCRM LeaRN) Project

Key responsibilities:

- Take the lead role in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project's web-based networking activities
- Develop and maintain the CBCRM RC's web site
- Take the lead in developing and implementing the project's publications and library services
- Support the development and strengthening of the project's networking process and mechanisms, in coordination with other CBCRM RC staff
- Develop the marketing and e-commerce of the CBCRM RC's publications and materials
- Support the Network Coordinator in the preparation of timely donor reports
- Provide technical and administrative assistance to the project

Qualifications:

- At least two years of development work experience, preferably in the field of community-based coastal resource management
- Knowledge of the Internet and web-based activities is essential
- Good computer literacy skills, specifically in desktop publishing and web-design
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, in English and Filipino
- Ability to work under pressure, meet tight deadlines, and deliver agreed standards of performance
- Knowledge and understanding of coastal resources management/fisheries issues and organizations in the Philippines and Southeast Asia is an advantage

Please mail or email your letter of application, together with your curriculum vitaé and any sample of written work to:

The Center Coordinator
CBCRM Resource Center
Rm. 107 Philippine Social Science Center
Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 927-9237 or 920-3368
Email: admin@cbcrmlearning.org

Deadline of application is on 12 June 2002. Only short-listed applicants will be informed of the interview date.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

GENERAL MANAGER

FOR A SECURITY SERVICE AGENCY

At least forty-five (45) years old
Tough and Detail Oriented
Seasoned and Hands On
Military Background preferred but not necessary

An attractive compensation package and other fringe benefits await successful applicant

Send latest passport photo and resumé to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
ATTN: RECRUITMENT HEAD
Box KA-016-02FI
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
G/F Trinity Building, 636 T.M. Kalaw Street,
Ermita, Manila
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
(subject: FI)

Rustan Marketing
Corporation

BRAND MANAGERS

- Male or female, between 26-35 years old
- Minimum of 2 years experience in product management and development of consumer products in a managerial capacity
- Degree in Business, preferably Marketing or Economics, an MBA degree or units is an advantage
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Must be computer literate

SALES/CORPORATE SALES MANAGER

- Male of female, 25-35 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year business related course
- Must have at least 2 years experience in a direct/retail selling environment
- Preferably with experience in distributing consumer products
- Creative and with excellent communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing, aggressive and dynamic personality

Qualified applicants are requested to send or e-mail immediately their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo to:

RUSTAN MARKETING CORPORATION
HRMD c/o Executive Administration
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Building
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail Address: cspagkalinawan@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

A LEADING MARKETING COMPANY ENGAGED IN NATIONWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS, IS IN URGENT NEED OF A TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUAL TO FILL UP THIS POSITION:

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGER

- Male or Female
- Graduate of Engineering, IT or Management with Systems Literacy
- Must have warehousing operations experience in a managerial capacity
- Must be computer literate
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2x2 PHOTO TO:

Code: MN 2036
c/o Philipine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue
Formerly Pasong Tamo corner
Yague & Mascardo Streets
Makati City

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

A progressive American company is in need of a

Network Specialist

with the following qualifications:

- Holds industry-recognized certifications: Microsoft Certified Professional or Certified Novell Administrator
- 4-5 years experience in supervising help desk and network operations in an enterprise-wide mixed Netware 4.11/Windows NT/2000/Unix 24/7 call center environment
- 4-5 years experience supporting 1000+ end-users/600 workstations on a 24/7 basis
- Installation, configuration, administration of Microsoft Windows 2000 Servers/Professional and Novell Netware 4.11
- Deep understanding of MS Active Directory and/or Novell Directory Services
- Working knowledge on Cisco/Foundry/HP routers and switches, data communications standards, TCP/IP, IPX, DNS, WINS, DHCP
- Willing to relocate to Pampanga

Please submit your resumé, 2x2 picture, and Transcript of Records to:

MK-85
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City
Deadline is June 8, 2002

Isis-International Manila, an international women's information and communication service organisation based in Quezon City, is currently in search of the following to join its dynamic and motivated team:

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME MANAGER

Primary Function

- Overall institutional management;
- Overseeing the general programme management and development, and providing leadership of the team;
- Developing and overseeing the internal institutional and programme monitoring and evaluation system;
- Taking lead in developing institutional policies;
- Formulating and implementing the Human Resource Development Programme;
- Ensuring adequate check and balance of the financial system;
- Overall management of the information system; and
- Fulfilling legal accountabilities of the institution.

Essential Skills

- At least three years experience in leadership roles and in managing a women's organisation;
- Strong writing and verbal communication skills in English;
- Expertise in organisational development;
- Ability to innovate financial systems and make recommendations on optimum use of resources;
- Must be well-versed in policy development and administrative systems management;
- Must be knowledgeable of the management of information systems;
- Advanced computer skills, including accounting softwares; and
- Ability to manage the programme staff and lead the programme in all core activities and tasks.

Desirable Skills

- Strong feminist perspective and involvement, nationally or regionally, with the women's movement;
- Strong networking skills; and
- Knowledge of Philippine Corporate, labor and immigration requirements.

Salary: P40,500.00 per month

Interested parties may send resumés with two reference letters not later than Wednesday, June 19, 2002 to:

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
#3 Marunong Street, Brgy. Central
Quezon City 1100 Philippines
Fax (632) 924-1065
Email address: admin@isiswomen.org

SALON SYSTEMS
MANAGEMENT INC.

MANAGER OF PIANDRE & GEM SALONS
NEEDS IMMEDIATELY:

Salon Managers
Marketing Assistants

- College Graduate
- Female, at least 5'1" in height
- With pleasing personality
- Fluent in English

Please submit resumé together with 2x2 colored picture, Transcript of Records, NBI and Barangay Clearance and SSS Number to:

G/F CSJ Building 105 Aguirre St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 812-4864; 813-0240

An established and fast growing Japanese cosmetics company is seeking for a highly-motivated & talented individual for the position of:

MARKETING COORDINATOR

- Preferably a degree holder in marketing.
- Between 22 – 25 yrs. Old, male or female.
- Strong research, communication and reporting skills.
- Computer literate.
- Good command of oral and written English.

Interested applicants may apply & bring their resume, transcript of records with 2X2 photo (Mon. - Thurs. only) or e-mail at mpcgen@itextron.com

mandom philippines corporation
#92 New York cor. Oxford Street,
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. 912-0365

A rare and exceptional opportunity for a

QUALIFIED LAWYER

The Opportunity:

1. The challenge to fully practice and extensively apply legal skills in practically all fields of law, namely: corporate and securities, civil, criminal, family and international law, and at all levels of the judicial systems.
2. The chance to move up and generalize through actual business negotiations into other fields of institutional involvement covering: information technologies, tourism, travel and transportation, international trade, investments and technology transfers, and investment banking and finance.
3. To be eligible, depending on performance alone, to be accepted to full-time general partnership in the firm involving profit sharing related directly to the value of your performance and contributions to institutional profits.

The Requirements:

The candidate must have the following qualifications:

1. Willing to work full time including late and off hours, weekends and holidays, particularly on legal research, and must be willing to immediately prepare full legal briefs with little advance notice.
2. Must have flexible work attitudes to adapt to the firm's existing culture involving total commitment.
3. Willing to travel to other parts of the country and abroad.

Interested applicants may submit their resumé with 2x2 picture, transcript of record to General Lawyer, P.O. Box 130 MCPO 1299 Makati City, Philippines.

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jay c. designs

A DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING FIRM IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

SALES MANAGER

- M/F, at least 25 years old, college graduate
- With minimum 1 year relevant work experience
- Has excellent communication skills, analytical mature, initiative, aggressive & results-oriented
- An enthusiastic team player with strong leadership qualities and pleasing personality

SALES EXECUTIVE

- M/F, single, at least 21 yrs. of age
- College graduate, computer literate
- At least one year selling experience

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- M/F, single, at least 21 yrs. of age
- Knows how to operate Corel 9
- College Graduate with 1 year experience

Please submit resume at the following outlets:
Basement, SM CITY North EDSA, Quezon City
5/F, Building A, SM MEGAMALL, Mandaluyong City
For inquiries please call: 927-1776 or 929-7479

FAST-GROWING, GLOBALLY-AFFILIATED AUDITING & CONSULTANCY FIRM

URGENTLY NEEDS

THREE (3) SENIOR AUDITORS

- Certified Public Accountant - With
- At least Two (2) Years Experience in Auditing or General Accounting
- Computer Know-How (Word/Excel)

FIVE (5) JUNIOR AUDITORS

- BS-Accountancy, BSC-BSBA Graduate
- Preferably w/ Work Experience
- W/ Computer Know-How (Word/Excel)

WITH HIGHLY COMPETITIVE SALARIES/BENEFITS
(PROFIT SHARING, PERFORMANCE & LOYALTY BONUSES)

APPLY NOW AT - (W/ BIO-DATA)

A.P. ACYATAN & CO., CPAs
DFK
(Philippine Member Firm - DFK International)
Suite 2-E Columbian International Towers
#500 Santol Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila
Tel. # 716-5754 to 55, 716-5713
Fax # (632) 716-5693
e-mail: acyatan@cyberhip.ph

AD AGENCY in search of a COPYWRITER

- Must have a passion for writing
- Must be an exceptional writer in English
- Must be comfortable writing in Filipino
- Must be brimming with creative ideas
- Must be willing to work long hours
- Ad agency or publication work experience is a plus

Write and tell us why we should hire you. Send your letter and resume to Makati Central Post Office P.O. Box 3994 or e-mail to pilfermagic@yahoo.com on or before June 3, 2002.

M.H. Del Pilar Street, Malate, Manila

iNCODE

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

DOCUMENT ANALYSTS/CODERS/QC

REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum of 2 years **Litigation Coding** experience OR at least 1 year in Quality Control
- College graduate
- Computer literate with typing speed of at least 30-35 WPM
- Able to work with speed and accuracy in English

Email your 1 page resumé and cover letter to
incode_corp@yahoo.com
Paste your resumé into the body of the email. No Attachments.

The exclusive Philippine distributor of Fujifilm products needs:

COMPUTER GRAPHIC ARTIST/ PRINT PRODUCTION MANAGER

Qualifications:

- Male or Female, not more than 35 years of age
- Fine Arts graduate or related liberal course
- At least 3 years work experience in graphic design and print production (from lithographic prints to large format printing)
- Adept in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, CorelDraw, Macromedia and other related software
- Experience in poster layout, packaging design and visual merchandising

Applicants may send their resumé and portfolios to:

YKL COLOR LAB
Human Resource Department
24 Sto. Domingo Street,
Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, 1100

PHILIPPINES
FitnessFirst SPORTathlon
INTEGRATED LEISURE SERVICES

Due to massive expansion rate of our business an exciting, unique and challenging opportunities exist with the fitness industry leaders ***SPORTathlon Integrated Leisure Services***.

You must be a long-term applicant who has experience in customer service, computer, sales, multi-tasking, working in a team environment and have a desire to make the fitness industry your career. You must be energetic, bright, self-starter, happy and be prepared to work shifts.

Public Relations Manager

- Minimum 2 years experience of hands on public relations and corporate communications with multi-national company
- Degree in Languages, Journalism, Communications, marketing or equivalent
- Experience working with PRC companies. Understanding of PRC business culture
- Excellent speaking and writing skills in English is a must.
- Must posses good management skills and able to develop and implement strategy

Membership Coordinators

- Responsible for building client leads and customer sales for membership
- Responsible for membership processing and coordinating membership concerns.
- Must have a pleasant personality and good oral/written communication skills
- Experience in sales and marketing in a service-related industry is an advantage

Technicians

- Knowledgeable/good understanding and experience in electrical applications
- Must be willing to work overtime
- Must be able to communicate in English
- EXPERIENCE in equipment installation, mechanical and electrical application is a plus factor

Please send your resume and 2x2 picture to 26/F, Citibank Tower, Valero corner Villar Streets, Makati City or fax to 848-1931 or e-mail to **jascha_ten@yahoo.com**. Qualified applicants will be notified and scheduled for interview.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

By a progressive Japanese firm

❶ CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

- ✓ Male/Female, 22 to 40 years old
- ✓ Minimum 2 years experience in auditing and accounting practice
- ✓ Computer literate
- ✓ Must be willing to travel
- ✓ Background in handling PEZA registered companies an ADVANTAGE

❷ HR/ADMIN MANAGERS

- ✓ College graduate
- ✓ Must have at least 3 years HR/Admin managerial functions
- ✓ Excellent oral and written communication skills
- ✓ Background in Law an ADVANTAGE
- ✓ At least 30 to 45 years old

Kindly send or submit resumés with photo and other credentials to

Legal Information Network Corporation
4F 111 Paseo de Roxas Building
Paseo de Roxas corner Legaspi Streets
Legaspi Village, Makati City
or e-mail to linchrd@info.com.ph
Inquiry 817-8470

SORIAMONT
STEAMSHIP
AGENCIES, INC.

We invite results-driven and aggressive individuals to join our organization, as:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Candidates must be graduates of any business related course, not more than 30 years old, with at least 2 years experience in the shipping industry, must have established a network of clientele or has the ability of building one, computer literate and must possess good communication skills.

OPERATIONS STAFF

Candidates are preferably graduates of any 4-year course, male, not more than 30 years old, with at least 2 years work experience in handling operations/ equipment control, terminal and ship boarding operations. Applicants must be computer literate.

DOCUMENTATION CLERK

Candidates are preferably graduates of any 4-year course, preferably male, not more than 30 years old, with at least 2 years related work experience from a forwarder or shipping line, computer literate, and must possess good communication skills.

Please send your comprehensive resumé with photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
4/F Athenaeum Condominium, 160 L.P. Leviste St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

An Established Network Marketing Co. (MLM) Invites suitably qualified and experienced individuals, to fill up the following key positions:

HRD ASSISTANT

- ☑ Male/Female, between 25 to 30 years old
- ☑ Graduate of Psychology or any Behavioral Science course
- ☑ Highly organized, with strong interpersonal communication skills and results-oriented
- ☑ With at least 1 year experience in recruitment, benefits administration and familiar with SSS, BIR, HDMF and Labor Laws
- ☑ Computer literate

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- ☑ Male/Female, 22 to 25 years old
- ☑ Graduate of paramedical course preferably Pharmacy, Nutrition or Nursing (fresh graduates are welcome)
- ☑ Trainable and with good verbal communication skill

RECEPTIONIST / TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- ☑ Female, at least 5'3" in height
- ☑ 22 to 28 years old
- ☑ College Graduate
- ☑ With pleasing personality and good verbal communication skill
- ☑ With 1 to 2 years related experience from a service industry

The Sr. Marketing Manager
Third Floor, EDMARK Building, No. 355 P. Tuazon Boulevard
Corner 21st Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 913-5515
E-mail: edmark@pacific.net.ph

WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

1. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (F)
2. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS (M/F)
3. DEPARTMENT SECRETARY (F)
4. ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS (M/F)
5. SALES EXECUTIVES/TELEMARKETERS (M/F)
6. COMPUTER OPERATORS/DATA ENTRY (M/F)

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR ALL POSITIONS:

- With related experience of at least one (1) year
- Good communication skills in oral & written English
- Above average know-how in basic computer applications especially MS Word and MS Excel
- Aged between 21-30 years (except for #1 with a minimum age requirement of 24)

PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION:

* For walk-in applicants, please bring your updated resumé plus 2x2 photo and certificate/s of employment; Mon-Fri / 9am-4pm
* Via e-mail, please send an application letter with brief resumé to:
atmpai@fastmail.i-next.net or atmpai@operamail.com
*For interview appointments, call 812-2654 or 817-3315 and look for Ms. Leah Andres. You may also fax documents at 894-5897.

OUR OFFICE LOCATION:

ATM-PAI, Unit 1610 Cityland 10 Tower 1, 6815 Ayala Avenue corner H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City (near RCBC Plaza/back of GT Tower)

AIC (Asian American Language Center)

is currently looking for **ENGLISH TUTORS** for foreign students. (Korean, Japanese, Chinese)

Qualifications:

- Must be able to work from Mondays to Fridays on a fixed schedule. (May work part-time or full-time)
- Must have pleasing personality and must be highly proficient in English
- Knows basic computer software applications.

Just submit a resumé and a 2x2 picture at:

Room 302, Room 304 Medecor Building
Ortigas Avenue, San Juan

For inquiries call 721-6445; 0917-2093045

1NetBroadcast, Inc. Philippines

FOR IMMEDIATE NEED

1. COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS

☐ For broadcast entertainment network. Minimum 2 years experience in ASP, SQL, HTML, FLASH.

2. SALES REPRESENTATIVES

☐ Male/Female; College graduate; With background in Sales & Marketing; Good customer relations skills; Above-average communication and typing skills; Computer/internet literate; Must be good speaker and trainer; Pleasant personality

3. BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

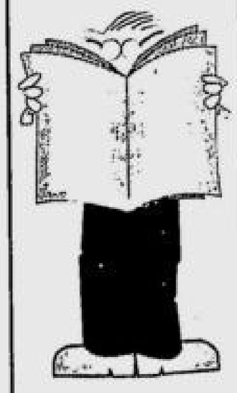
Free Sign Up
Movies, Music, Games & Shopping /
Entertainment Distribution and Promotion
Television - Concert Production

EARN CASH
Affiliate Opportunity
Interested in Earning Residual Income?
Part-Time: P10,000 per month
Full-Time: P75,000 per month
Entrepreneurs: Earn over P150,000 per month
Training, Travel, Car Bonuses Provided

For 1 & 2, applicants may fax their resumés with contact number to **(632) 878-6075** or send to the address below.

For 3, call **(632) 878-6076** for appointment.

6th Floor, LV Locsin Bldg.
Makati corner Ayala Avenues, Makati City



Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

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www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB ONLINE

AN EXCITING RECREATION HUB WITH COFFEE SHOP CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN THE HEART OF ORTIGAS IS HIRING HIGHLY QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

CUSTOMER SERVICE CREW

Should be College Graduate, Female, between 21-25 years old. Pleasing personality and highly Customer Service Oriented. Willing to be trained in Bowling and Billiard Operations.

CHIEF COOK

At least 30 years old, with minimum of 5 years experience as Chief Cook, must be knowledgeable in Filipino as well as some International Cuisine, Hardworking and willing to work long hours.

ASSISTANT COOK

At least 25 years old with minimum of 3 years experience in Cooking. Hardworking and willing to work long hours

BARTENDERS

At least 25 years old with 3 years experience in Bartending Proficient in English and Tagalog.

WAITRESSES

Female, at least 21 years old, with pleasing personality. Hardworking and Honest, must be Proficient in English and Tagalog. Experience with Fast Food Operation will be helpful.

DISHWASHERS

At least 25 years old. Hardworking and willing to work long hours.

VALET PARKERS

Male, at least 25 years old, with valid Driver's license. Courteous and with pleasing personality.

Please submit your Bio-data with most recent picture to:

HRD MANAGER
G/F Park Tower, 621-625 Florentino Torres Street
Sta. Cruz 1003, Manila

Maunsell

MAUNSELL PHILS., INC. has been successful in securing major domestic and international design projects and is urgently looking to expand its Makati design office.

We seek highly motivated individuals who wish to be involved in multimillion dollar projects for the following positions:

☐ SENIOR STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

- ➢ minimum of seven (7) cumulative years of experience in structure engineering design work for industrial type steel buildings.
- ➢ had undertaken a three dimensional analysis design of steel structure.
- ➢ experience in road and bridge design will be an advantage.
- ➢ knowledgeable in the use of SPACE GAS, STRAND, ETABS, or STAAD software and local and international codes and standards.
- ➢ can develop design criteria, specifications and drawings to meet project requirement.
- ➢ can coordinate engineering effort with other disciplines.
- ➢ can provide construction support and sites visits to solve engineering problems.
- ➢ can monitor progress to ensure conformance to project schedule and budget.

☐ CAD OPERATORS

- ➢ proficient in AutoCad 2000
- ➢ minimum 3-5 years experience in AutoCad drafting
- ➢ experience in structural detailing is a must.

Mail application letter, comprehensive resume, employment or training certificates, academic transcript not later than 07 June 2002 to the address below.

Previous applicants for these position need not apply.

HR MANAGER
MAUNSELL PHILS., INC.
11th Floor Ayala Life – FGU Center
6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

E-mail Address: mpi@maunsellphils.com

A National Drug Manufacturer is in need of:

Marketing Director

Responsibilities:

- ➢ Formulate and implement marketing strategies to grow the quality of revenue, gain share in certain product areas while maintaining share in others
- ➢ Identify market trends, competitive activities and business opportunities that will impact the businesses

Qualifications:

- ➢ At least 10 yrs experience in sales or marketing including 5 yrs as a marketing manager in the pharmaceutical sector
- ➢ Experience in setting broad marketing strategies and plans
- ➢ Bachelor degree, preferably in a business discipline

Skills and Attributes Required:

- ➢ Highly motivated, capable of motivating others
- ➢ Demonstrated people skills
- ➢ Innovative, energetic, having a positive attitude

Qualified applicants may send their Resume, Transcript of records, 2x2 ID picture to:

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
P.O. Box 2839
Quezon City

An established group of companies seek dynamic aggressive individuals to fill the position of:

STEWARDS

- ◆ College level
- ◆ At least 5'3" in height, well built and with pleasing personality
- ◆ At least one (1) year experience
- ◆ 20-30 years old

Interested parties may bring their resumé with 2x2 photo and apply personally to:

CITY SERVICE CORP.
147 Williams St., Pasay City
(Look for Ms. Marissa Salazar - Administration Manager)

Email: **jm1@inquirer.com.ph**

CENTRAL GROUP OF COMPANIES

has career opportunities for the following:

ACCOUNTANTS
WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

- University graduate with good scholastic record
- With at least 2 years working experience in the same capacity
- Computer literate, analytical and honest
- Flexible and can do multitasks

MICROSOFT WORD EXPERTS

- With experience in layouting/editing
- Can manage technical projects
- With good communication skills

Please bring resumé and transcript at 927 Quezon Avenue, QC
Tel. No. 372-3550 Fax No. 372-4732 or email at
central@central.com.ph

CJH
Development
Corporation
Camp John Hay

JOB OPENING

Accounting Manager

Minimum Qualifications:

- ✓ Certified Public Accountant
- ✓ At least 3 years work experience in managerial/supervisorial capacity in accounting, treasury, finance related field
- ✓ With real estate accounting background
- ✓ Excellent written and oral communication skills
- ✓ Knowledge in Microsoft Office programs
- ✓ Willing to be assigned in Baguio from time to time
- ✓ Position is Manila based

Marketing Services Officer

Minimum Qualifications:

- ✓ Graduate of Bachelor's degree in Marketing, Management or any related course
- ✓ Proficient in windows-based application
- ✓ Excellent written and oral communication skills
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sunday INQUIRER magazine

June 2, 2002

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

Patrice Ramos-Diaz became a bridal gown designer by accident. But all the work she puts into her sumptuous creations is well thought of and meant to help a bride navigate that most important day in her life

Patrice Ramos-Diaz

Dream Maker

By Tinna S. Bonifacio
Photographs by Johnny Villena

DESIGNER Vera Wang said of a bridal gown: "It is more than just a dress, it is an embodiment of a dream, and perhaps one a woman has nurtured since childhood."

Having been a bride herself—she married Jay, a banker, four years ago—Patrice Ramos-Diaz knows how important it is to look beautiful on one's wedding day, a thought that has prompted her to put extra effort into her bridal creations.

"I love doing bridal wear because it's so special," explains Patrice, now a mother to three boys named Quito, Aki, and Luis, who is only two months old. "Having gone through my own wedding, I know how important it is for a bride that a gown be executed the way she wants—after all, it's probably the most special and most expensive piece of clothing a woman will wear in her lifetime."

As a made-to-order designer, Patrice works mainly on bridal gowns and wedding ensembles. Ironically, this Fine Arts graduate of the University of the Philippines was initially unsure of what aspect of design she wanted to pursue as a career. She was equally interested in painting, fashion, and graphic design.

While trying to, as she puts it, "find myself," Patrice took a short detour. She opened a salon and learned to cut and color hair and do makeup. But while she was doing something creative, Patrice felt something else was lacking. "I found myself at a dead end. I wanted to do something more creative, so I put together my portfolio and started applying for a job as graphic designer."

Here, joke Patrice's friends and clients, her story starts to sound like the Kate Beckinsale movie "Serendipity"—that is, minus the John Cusack character. Patrice says she never expected to be a designer, but everything that happened took her in that direction.

It was clearly a case of being in the right place at the right time. To start with, the first company Patrice took her portfolio to in 1997 was located in the same building as Mega magazine, organizers of the annual Young Designers' Competition. Dropping in on a friend working for the magazine, Patrice was persuaded to submit her portfolio—which contained designs she had made as a student—to the editors. Although she had no intentions of joining the contest and despite having zero professional designing experience, Patrice became first runner-up in the magazine's Young Designers' Competition. Her destiny became even clearer when the winner, Raoul Ramirez, was not allowed to

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Consummate professional and top wedding photographer Patrick Uy clicked away while his home burned

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represent the Philippines at the international competition in Singapore because he was over the age limit. Patrice, then only 28, stepped in to take his place.

The prospect scared her. "It was my first time to go to Singapore, and on the plane going there, I was thinking of backing out of the competition. It was also my first real experience in fashion other than the little shows I'd done as a student. I wasn't sure I was ready," recalls Patrice.

She lost, but the Singapore experience erased whatever doubts she had about her future. "It made me see that fashion wasn't just about making clothes; it was a real business that I could get into. Most important, it would allow me to use my creativity."

When she came back from Singapore, Patrice set up shop in a one-bedroom apartment in Valle Verde II. At the time, she had only one child. Coincidentally, as Patrice's family grew, so did her reputation as a designer. Now, she is one of the most sought-after local designers, boasting a client list that includes socialites, politicians' wives and celebrities like TV host Kris Aquino, who was Patrice's classmate in high school at the Colegio San Agustin in Makati.

Patrice with models Margie Duavit, Vicky Abary and Angel Jacob in bridal and bridesmaid wear

Patrice designs cocktail dresses and gowns, but her main line is bridal wear. Among the recent weddings she did was that of Nancy Binay, daughter of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay. Mostly, though, her clients are non-celebrities who like Patrice's uncomplicated style.

What she enjoys most about designing wedding gowns is getting involved in the whole occasion, helping brides source everything they need from souvenirs to flowers. "I develop a relationship with my clients who end up becoming my friends. When they come to the shop, they bring *pasalubong* for my kids. It's so much fun, because I'm an only girl, and I've always dreamed of having a sister to talk with about clothes. Now I have my bride clients for that."

Her first big project as a bridal designer was her own wedding gown. It was executed by Patrice's good friend Rajo Laurel. "I used to go to Rajo for some of my clothes, and we became friends because we'd end up hanging out in his shop looking at fabric," says Patrice.

Designing for herself was both easy and difficult. "It's easier to design for yourself because you're already familiar with certain types of material, like what I can use and what will fit my body. The difficult part is, I'm very fickle. It was hard for me to decide on one particular look. I finally settled for a scoop-necked, bell-shaped gown with a detachable bubble train made from Thai silk."

The rather formal gown went well with the venue of the wedding, the historic Manila Cathedral. Originally, Patrice wanted to have her wedding at the chapel of the St. Scholastica's Retreat House in Tagaytay, but since they didn't allow weddings, Patrice and Jay were forced to look for an alternative venue. Finally, they settled for the Manila Cathedral because it had air-conditioning.

Patrice was very pleased with the outcome. Her only regret was that her mother was no longer around to see her wedding since she had passed away when Patrice was only 13.

Patrice designs her gowns based on her clients' personality. "I always tell my brides to make a scrapbook," she says. "I tell them to fill it with clippings and pictures that they like–it's like a concept board, except that the goal here is to try and visualize their wedding day. They can draw inspiration from things like throw pillows or china patterns, and from there, I can tell if they're the cutesy type, or if they're sweet and romantic, or clean and modern."

Then comes the actual designing. "The goal is to make the wearer look her best, the most beautiful she can be. Whether the look is pretty and romantic in Swiss lace, or regal in duchesse satin, or modern-minimalist in stretch tulle, bejeweled and sexy in charmeuse, or stunningly simple in chiffon, it has to be timeless. Brides want something that will create an impact," says Patrice.

The most important job of a bridal designer, she notes, is to help the bride navigate her way through the many decisions that must be made, starting with the gown. Ivory, eggshell, ecru, or pure white? A-line, princess, ball gown, or sheath? Off-shoulder or bustier? No, maybe scoop neck! Spaghetti straps? Sweep train with a bustle or detachable? Circular veil, or fingertip?

"A typical bride cannot distinguish duchesse satin from silk, or charmeuse. Some can't see the difference between silk and a polyester blend," continues Patrice. "Yet a bride is faced with the task of deciding not only the fabric for her bridal gown, but many other details as well. The designer soon becomes one of her best friends (aside from the latest issue of Martha Stewart's Weddings magazine). Imagine! So much trust and confidence given to a person who will design and execute the most important dress a woman will ever wear!"

As anyone who has ever gotten married knows, deciding the material of a wedding gown is just the beginning. There are a number of important things to consider: the bride's body-type and proportions, her skin tone, the shape of her face, her personality, family traditions and superstitions, as well as the venue, time and overall concept or theme of the wedding. Then there are mothers and mothers-in-law to contend with.

"It's hard to work with all these elements, because for example, when it comes to fittings, mothers don't usually want the bride to fit the gown. *Malas daw kasi* (it's considered bad luck)," says Patrice. "But what I tell them is, '*Mas malas yata* (it's more unfortunate) if the gown doesn't fit the bride.' And I always compromise. If they really don't want to fit the gown, I say, okay, just fit the gown's lining."

What has helped Patrice is remembering that the focal point of a wedding is always the bride. It is her wishes that must be followed. Not her mother's, not her mother-in-law's, not even the designer's. "Weddings are now a major production," says Patrice. "But for me, I always adjust to the bride. Even if I'm the type to go for simple weddings, or the modern and innovative kind, it's what the bride wants that's important. Of course, I can suggest ideas that will decide the general look, but ultimately, the choice is the bride's."

As a designer, Patrice says she feels as much pressure as the bride does. "Weddings always make me nervous. Sometimes, I'm even more nervous than the bride!" she laughs. "I've been one and I know how perfect she wants it to be."

But all the hard work—starting from the first consultation, to selecting fabrics and colors to the fittings (through all the weight fluctuations), and finally to the day itself—is rewarded when Patrice sees the look on the bride's face.

"It is delayed gratification, but it's well worth the wait when I see the bride on the most important day in her life, wearing something I've created," she says.

With Quito, Luis and Aki

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Editor in Chief **Alya B. Honasan**
Managing Editor **Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz**
Associate Editor **Ruel S. De Vera**
Staff Writer **Eric S. Caruncho**
Graphic Designer **Chuchie Quevedo-See**
Design Consultant **Lynett A. Villariba**
Editorial Assistant **Sharon M. Felipe**
Advertising & Sales Manager **Kenny Nuyda**

THE SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number **897-8808 locals 317 and 318.** Mailing address: **PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines.** E-mail: **sim@inquirer.com.ph**

The Cover Image Patrice Ramos-Diaz's designs help a bride navigate that most important day in her life
Photograph by Johnny Villena
Flowers by Sonata; wedding gown modeled by Angel Jacob

FROM THE AMORSOLOS

MY SISTER Soledad and brothers Adrian and Manuel are thankful for the very nice attention given us. ("Children of the Light," SIM, 26 May 2002.) We joked about "a last hurrah" for us, for we are all the quiet type and are living on borrowed time now.

We had a good question and answer session on limited time, thus, we could not elaborate on everything exactly. Here are some clarifications.

Right now, it's our sister Sylvia alone who authenticates Papa's paintings, although all of us know a fake when we see one.

Because Papa was almost saintly, you asked if he ever got angry or yelled at us. He never yelled, but we gave you the human side of him and saw him once, when pushed to the limit concerning a painting, by crossing the face with an X with his brush, not by slashing it with something pointed, as some people thought.

Also, the incident about him escaping through the bathroom window happened in Spain, when they honored him with a party. Of all people, our family has a special place in our hearts for the Zobels, especially Papa's benefactor.

What we told you were our experiences during our time—not to malign him, because we all love him, and there's no one like him—but to show that he can also be human.

Again, thank you so much. We love the title you gave us, as his legacy and light.

Gracia Amorsolo Valdes

MAY I be given the opportunity to make certain clarifications relative to the article "Children of the Light" (SIM, 26 May 2002).

I wish to point out that Papa had many good and unpleasant experiences with his clients; making a derogatory remark and slashing a painting in the presence of a client is definitely not his character.

Also, Papa's interest in painting embraces subjects from all walks of life –beggars, natives, barrio folks and women of renowned beauty and those who simply radiate their inner attributes. His paintings depict his deep sentiment both as a person and an artist.

Sylvia Amorsolo Lazo

AYEN'S AGE

The math in the article "Out of the Golden Cage" (**SIM**, May 19, 2002) is strange. First it says (Ayen) Munji is now 23, that she first met Bolkiah in 1993 (when she would've been nine or 10, according to her previously mentioned age) while performing at the Brunei Country Club, that she got married to him soon after, that she was married to him for seven years, and that she started performing at 16. Doesn't make sense, does it?

Lia Bulaong
Lia@mydestiny.net

Writer Tinna S. Bonifacio stands corrected. Ayen Munji-Laurel is 30.

Erratum: *In our May 19, 2002 issue, the penultimate stanza in Alwynn C. Javier's poem "Cubao Aurora" was accidentally omitted. The stanza should read: "Hindi ang impit na tili/ Kundi ang ngitngit ng budhi./ Ang aleng nagkurus, nanginig./ Kaming naluslos, nayanig."* **SIM** *regrets the error. –Ed.*

Poetry

Nostos

Kagabi ay sumapit sa akin
Ang isang napakasamang panaginip:

Ikaw ay nakauwi na ng bahay
at sinindihan ang lahat ng ilaw
hanggang sa maglagablab ang paligid
sa kayraming dumadaloy na kuryente
at ako raw ay iyong tinatawag
ngunit hindi kita marinig
dahil sa pag-apaw ng ingay ng radyo
nagpapatugtog ng mga musikang
hindi ko pa naririnig sa aking buhay
at bigla ay sumiklab ang buong bahay
sa pagkiriring ng teleponong
nagbabalita na nagliyab ang barko
na iyong sinasakyan at ikaw ay naiwan
at nagpupumilit tayong magpang-abot
gayong pareho nang nagliliyab
ang ating mga kamay
sa sobrang liwanag, sa sobrang ingay

At saka ako nagising, manhid
ang dalawang braso na tila may nakadagang
dalawang malalaking bulto ng konkreto
at iyon pala'y nariyan ka na,
isang malaking bangkay ngunit humihinga pa,
ipinapaalalang naririto kang muli
ngunit patuloy na nawawala sa karagatan,
at ipinipinid ng iyong labi ang aking bibig
upang ipadama na ganito katindi
ang bigat ng iyong pangamba at hibik,
na ganito magpaalam
ang mga hindi na maaaring bumalik.

Raymund Magno Garlitos

Couples at Work

By Jerome Gomez

They've Got Each Other Covered

ROMY HOMILLADA

How two very different broadcast journalists met, fell in love, and are now co-producing life forever together

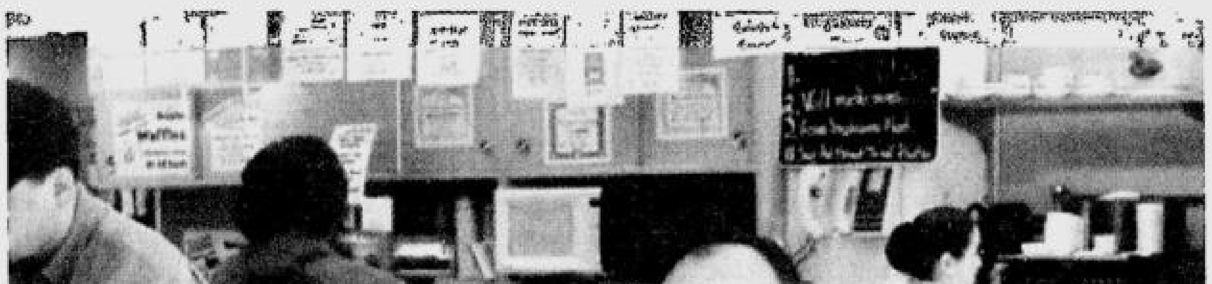
WHEN Patrick Paez asked Daphne Oseña if she would marry him, they were on the road. On a moving car, Patrick unceremoniously pulled out a small box, handed it to Daphne and asked, "Will you marry me?"

Daphne was aghast. After all, Patrick has a way with words and was big on flowers, all that romantic stuff. She had warned him long ago that when the time came for him to throw the question—aside from the non-negotiable box that contains an emerald-cut diamond on a white gold band—he had to give her "a moment."

"What? No, take it back! Pull over, pull over," she ordered him. They were on Sucat Road on the way to NAIA where Daphne was to catch a flight to Canada for a vacation. He pulled over, proposed again and, of course, she said yes. "She kept asking me for a moment," recalls Patrick. "I thought it took out the spontaneity." But it was a moment, alright; she remembers.

After more than half a year of preparations and a series of panic attacks (the bride-to-be's; she was her own wedding coordinator), Patrick and Daphne had their biggest moment last month when they finally tied the matrimonial knot at the Don Bosco Chapel in Batulao, Batangas. It was officiated by the groom's older brother Dennis. Patrick's sister flew in from New York, Daphne's Canada-based family was in town weeks before the May 4 event, and the couple's friends and sponsors took the 2 ½-hour drive from Manila. While everyone expected the bride to shed buckets every step of the way during the ceremony, it was the groom who couldn't help crying. From the time he saw Daphne walk from the church door up to the point when the couple delivered their speech at the reception, Patrick kept wiping tears off his eyes. "I was just overwhelmed," he says.

After all, this is his first church wedding. Patrick's previous marriage 13 years ago to a colleague in the Manila Chronicle lasted three years and has been annulled. He has a 12-year-old daughter from the relationship. His last involvement with another colleague from the broadcast industry was described by friends as an intense and problematic one, which ended several years ago. People who know Patrick from way back joke that he wept at the Batangas wedding because he couldn't believe that at 37, with thinning hair and a checkered past, he could still get a girl like Daphne who, at 33, is pretty, well-educated and has the luxury of choice when it comes to men.



EDDIEBOY ESCUDERO

Daphne and Patrick in New York three months before the wedding, left; cutting the cake, above

Patrick is currently Director of Current Affairs and executive producer of "The Correspondents," while Daphne co-hosts "F," both produced by ABS-CBN. Ever since they met at Kampo, at an ABS-CBN Christmas party, he was always hanging around wherever she was, playing designated driver during her shuttles from the News Channel office to the station's main studios. She was dating other men. He would talk about his problems and she would listen. Eventually, she began to like him.

"I had this confidence that I was going to end up with this woman," says Patrick. She liked parties, weekends on a yacht, diving. He took her to Tutuban, to Binondo, and to a cockfight. During one of those dates, he would tell her she was a beautiful person and that her parents brought her up very well. "I knew this guy saw something in me that the other guys didn't," she says. He did have a way with words.

"Logically, we really don't match," says Daphne. He is a homebody and she likes going out. He can't swim to save his life while she is a certified diver. He was a student leader and activist in the Marcos years, she grew up a Marcos loyalist. "We come from different worlds. My home is in Canada (where the family lived after the EDSA Revolution; her dad is Colonel Delio Oseña, retired, pilot to the Marcoses) and Patrick is such a patriot."

But he made her fall in love with the Philippines when he did the camerawork for her "Video Postcards," a travel series for Studio 23. Was it a conscious effort on Patrick's part to show her what's great about this country? "No, but I don't think any other woman would have appreciated what I did," says Patrick. "This is not your regular woman. People think she gave up a lot when she started going out with me, that she's very career-minded and won't sacrifice her lifestyle, but she's more complex than that. She enjoys the simple things."

Accepting Patrick's past took a lot more effort. When he finally asked her to be his girlfriend, she initially said yes, but as soon as she got home, she regretted her answer and wanted to take it back. "I was 27 and I couldn't just have flings. We were in the same workplace, and if the relationship turned sour, it would ruin my work. My family background is very conservative and very traditional—you only get married once."

The next day, she asked that they meet for dinner where she planned to express her misgivings. That same day, Patrick's mom had a stroke, and so she found herself staying with him at the hospital. A few days after, his mom died. Daphne was never able to say no, and would never regret she didn't.

Was it difficult to maintain a relationship inside the newsroom? "We both thought it would be, but everything turned out well," says Patrick. They saw each other everyday, had lunch together, and shared the same friends. They never really worked with each other directly except when he did the pilot episodes for "F."

"She's my collaborator," he says. Aside from holding the camera for Video Postcards, Patrick also shot her story on the accessories designer Raffy Totengco when the couple was in New York during the first quarter of 2002. "He taught me how to write lifestyle in a news way," she says.

During last year's Edsa 3, while Patrick was covering the events around Malacañang, she was at home watching the news. "I was in the middle of the crowd," says Patrick. "I needed information on what was happening at the other side of the palace. I had no radio, just a cellphone, and she was giving me blow-by-blow accounts from her home and directing me."

Reporting in Afghanistan last year, with his group of producers from "The Correspondents," Patrick was held up at gunpoint and barely escaped Kabul alive. The day after, Patrick got on a satellite phone to call Daphne and assure her he's okay. She wanted to do something. Did he want her to call the United Nations? Or the Air Force perhaps? She didn't have to. After all, he survived being chased out by bullets in Lamitan, Basilan while covering an Abu Sayyaf attack, a story that won the silver medal in the Breaking News, Long Format category of the New York Festivals 2002.

While she still considers Canada her home country because her family lives there, Daphne has decided to make the Philippines home for the moment because of Patrick. "I will only move to Canada if he can continue his journalism career there," she says. "He is so good at what he does."

After the wedding, the couple started moving Daphne's things from her condo unit, beside the ABS-CBN offices in Mother Ignacia, to the Paez home in Parañaque, where the couple will take up residence.

What are they looking forward to? "Lots of kids," says Daphne. "Everyday," says Patrick. "Everything."

Stylewatch

By Rodolfo A.G. Silvestre Jr.

The Alchemist of Style

ROGER MARGALLO

Teyet with Hidalgo's *"La Banca"*

ELEGANCE is not the only word that comes to mind when entering the home of art collector Eleuterio Pascual. No less than Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo's *"La Banca"* greets one at the foyer, a gem of an artwork that gives one an idea of what to expect in this 34th-floor condominium unit that faces the morning sun, and overlooks the vast lands and skyscrapers on this side of Metro Manila.

Teyet, as his chums among Manila's 400 call him, is himself a man of many facets. He holds a doctorate in chemistry, a degree he worked hard for in Zurich, Switzerland, in the same institution where Einstein worked on his theory of relativity. In 1983, upon the invitation of his friend and mentor Don Luis Araneta, Teyet put together the visual spectacle that was the Greggy Araneta-Irene Marcos nuptials in Ilocos Norte. Teyet has since been recognized as the dean of Filipino stylists, an appellation he claims he doesn't take too seriously. "Call me a *florista*, if you will, for all I care," says Teyet.

Almost two decades after that unforgettable baptism of fire, Teyet once again takes on the distinct challenge of producing a unique ambience for a presidential wedding, this time for Mikey Arroyo and his bride-to-be Angela Montenegro.

Nineteen years ago, it was in Sarrat that Teyet spruced up the church and the reception hall. This time, on June 24, he will take care of the evening reception at the Malacañang Palace.

"It will, of course, be palatial. I always aim for suitability in anything I do. And there has to be a logic," declares Teyet, as he expounds on his plans for the cocktail reception to which only 800 will be invited.

"Because Mikey is the son of the President of the Philippines, we will project the Filipino spirit," continues Teyet. "For the first time, Manila will see artworks that I brought home from my house in London." He is referring to his collection of rare lithographs that, for the occasion, have been enlarged to adorn the reception hall. Depicted on these 10 plates are "Filipino types" in their Filipino costumes.

This is the first time he is doing a Malacañang reception, and he's careful about making sure everything will be in proportion. "How, for example, do you complement the stateliness of the place? I am so glad I have my collection of crystal candelabras, so I am bringing about 30 of them to match those magnificent chandeliers."

What to bring to the palace isn't exactly a problem for Teyet, who is known for decorating venues of weddings and other occasions with his personal collection of art works and antiquities. His other home, located in Quezon City, functions more as storage for hundreds of yards of table cloth, thousands of china ("Limoges, Meissen, Flora Danica, you name it, I have it") and silver of sterling quality. "I must have a fetish for plates. I have 10,000 of them."

Such eyes for refinement will also be put to good use when Teyet decorates the Montenegro home in Forbes Park for the *despedida de soltera* that will be attended by 120 close friends and family members.

While the antique decors and art works will come solely from him, the flowers are altogether a different thing. "Luckily, I have florist friends who will be helping me put up the flowers. Without their help, my treasures would be without the accoutrements to complement their radiance."

NIKKO MAGSANOC

The citizen of the world, at home in Paris

The inimitable Dr. Eleuterio 'Teyet' Pascual, prodigious collector and stylist extraordinaire, is pulling out all the stops for the Arroyo-Montenegro wedding. But then again, he has always believed in spontaneous creativity

Teyet maintains that his "clients" through the years are friends, or friends of friends "who become my friends too, because as we conceive those special events in their lives, I get to see their families in informal situations. And the closer we get, the more I make sure that I do the best for them. Every wedding for me is singular, a realization of the couple's dream."

Teyet's regard for nuances has rightfully earned for him "clients" who, others presume, would not ask him to do their children's weddings. Not too long after the EDSA revolution, activist-historian Tingting Cojuangco sought his help in designing the reception venue for her daughter Liaa's wedding to management whiz kid Noel Bautista. "It was going to be held in Fort Santiago. Immediately, I saw the need for tents, so I told Tingting we should set up tents and embellish these with exquisite accessories." It turned out to be one of the most memorable weddings of that decade. For the wedding of a scion, the Madrigals got their own surprise from Teyet when he converted their New Manila swimming pool into a fountain. Even the old Chinese families and the newly minted taipans have been seeking his magic. For the Patrick Go-Ingrid Chua wedding reception for 800, Teyet brought all the silver and china.

It would seem, of course, that for all his effort and the risk that goes with transporting all those treasures, Teyet gets a big chunk of the wedding budget. "No," he says. "After all, these are friends. And friends don't talk about money."

Besides, what do you give someone who has 17 Luna paintings, dozens of Amorsolos, and 50 Ramon Valera gowns? Well, Teyet, surprisingly, has not had a car for a long time, having given away his two Mercedes Benzes to his nephew. For years, he rented from Greggy Araneta. Having heard of his self-imposed predicament, the Gos gave him a Volvo, which he refused.

But if the client-friend must insist, Teyet merely asks for a "token fee, which is just 10 percent of the value of the things that I bring with me to a wedding." Roughly translated, for instance, for the wedding of a true-blue member of Manila's high society, that amounted to about P1.2 million, a measly amount considering that he does not require insurance for the treasures.

Teyet also does not own a television set. He does not read the newspaper, and would rather be like Greta Garbo. "I do not wish to be interviewed. There's only one telephone here, and I don't hear it because I am always in the library."

If he's not traveling and "updating on style," he would much rather read and relax at home. "Reading is important because that's how you get your capacity for discernment." But he also entertains his close friends—or gets entertained by him.

Imelda Marcos, for one, literally lives next door. "She has been a friend all these years, no matter the turn of political fortunes for her. Besides, we are both soldiers of beauty. And from her, I have learned graciousness," claims Teyet.

For one of Mrs. Marcos' birthday celebrations, he filled up Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion with 2,000 dozens of roses. He talks about the small things they do together, like when he once hosted a party, and "Mrs. Marcos sang with Fernando Poe, to the accompaniment of Josie Natori. Now, isn't that a surreal scene?"

Teyet is known personally to the Macapagal family, being close to Don Luis Araneta, who was himself very close to the president's late mother, Doña Eva Macapagal. And then, it turned out that Angela's mother is also related to Don Luis.

And yet, if he had a choice, he'd rather not see some people who have failed him. "Some would pretend to be a friend when they just want to borrow your things. The next thing you know, they're using your things for business. Or some would use your connections, ingratiate themselves with your friends, and the next thing you know, they're sowing intrigue between you and your friend. Besides, I don't like any kind of deceit," Teyet says.

"I demand a sense of honesty among my friends and would-be friends. And I am not choosy when it comes to friends. I am not a snob. The people selling second hand things in Bangkal have been my friends all these years. They are honest people and I like them. They also do not take advantage of our friendship.

"I was talking with Ricky Reyes. He says he does not mind if people call him a *mangungulot*. After all, it is his profession. Me? I don't care if I am called a *florista*. I only care that I do my best in anything that I do."

Of course, he, too, has had his share of criticisms. When he published his book of Luna drawings, a famous artist said the Luna drawings were fake. "How could he say that? He hasn't even seen them."

Referring to talks that "I am a drug addict *daw*, how could that happen? If I were a drug addict, then everyone else is. Who needs drugs when these beautiful things around me are all I need to give me equilibrium? If there's anything I'm addicted to, that would be weddings. *Masaya naman*. They give me an adrenaline high. And of course, to me, every wedding is a battlefield for the distillation of the soul."

Pressed for advice, though, to the young ones who would follow his path, Teyet admonishes them "to work hard like me, and never to do anything halfway. And they should always be known for something. My weddings are always aristocratic in sentiment. I always try to achieve classical purity."

And then, with a flourish, he shares his secret formula. "Anything that I do, it's always with an inch of madness, two dashes of refinement, a grain of effort, and a few heartbeats. Now, they should do it that way, too."

Teyet doesn't know what's going to come next. "I just know that I am always after that elusive alchemy called creativity." If possible, he would not want to do another wedding. But then, he muses, "how can I refuse my friends?"

Perspective
By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

The 'Grinch' Who Steals Romance

Starry-eyed lovers might describe lawyer Ruy Rona
as a spoilsport for bringing out the mon sue i
relationships, but this expert on prenuptial agreen
knows that not all marriages are made in heaver

JIM GUIAOPUNZALAN

BESOTTED lovers might find it easy to pledge the moon, the stars, their entire hacienda and the family silver to their intended, but trust lawyers to draft the fine print that reins in such impulse. Little wonder then that starry-eyed couples are bound to describe Family Law lawyers like Ruy Alberto S. Rondain as "the grinch who stole romance." Rondain prepares prenuptial agreements or marriage settlements, contracts signed before the wedding that make *buena familia* parents sleep better, knowing their potential in-laws aren't about to get their grubby paws on their family's heirloom.

"I still think people get married for love, sometimes foolishly, but you can't live on love alone," says Rondain, a UP Law graduate who established the law firm Rondain & Mendiola after paying his dues at ACCRA.

"You have to be practical," he adds, "especially if there are special circumstances like children from a previous marriage. It's better to settle everything early *para walang gulo* (to avoid trouble) later."

Prenuptial agreements or prenups cover only property issues, and cannot include provisions on child custody, sexual matters, household responsibilities or expectations about personal habits, says Rondain. There are other laws in place to cover them, he adds. The provisions of a prenup must also be in accordance with existing laws; they must be in writing and the agreement signed before the wedding. "The contract becomes void should no wedding take place for whatever reason."

The rush to define property relations came shortly after the New Family Code came into effect in 1987. "The Code only allows for absolute community of property, meaning that couples are expected to pool their individual properties and resources and use that as a common fund." Couples who got married before 1987 could either opt for total separation of property or conjugal ownership. Separation of property means each spouse retains ownership of their individual properties and whatever earnings may come from them, with each one agreeing on how much to contribute for the support of the family. In conjugal ownership, the spouses also retain ownership of their properties, but the fruits or earnings of these properties are used to sustain the needs of the family.

Apparently, adds Rondain, the possibility of having their boundless wealth tied up with the meager resources of some low-born interloper can be very disconcerting to the very rich. "And that's why even when young couples marry for love and don't really mind the social or economic gap between them, parents insist on having a prenup to keep their resources intact," notes Rondain. "You know what they say about marrying a Filipino—you're also marrying the family," adds this Cornell University Law Masters, who handles about five prenup cases a year.

The lean number reflects the still widespread distaste for discussing money matters among Filipinos who consider it bad taste or a matter of *delicadeza.* "Would-be Lotharios publicly say they don't care, but of course it's a matter of pride. They'll never let on that it hurts their ego to be suspected so," says Rondain. Or, he muses, it could simply be that there are not that many rich people in the country. "The middle-class folk may not be that conscious yet of the need to protect their properties, or perhaps they don't think it's worth the trouble. Or they might be of the impression that legal fees for prenups are prohibitive, which they're not."

His approach to couples who ask him to prepare prenup agreements is direct, he reveals. "Most aren't aware that you can tweak the three property regimes—conjugal, total separation and absolute community—any which way. There can be any number of permutations, depending on what end result the couple wants. That's why the first question I ask couples is, what is your objective? Just tell me what you want and I'll look for a solution as long as it's legal."

There is no ideal prenup, says Rondain. "It is need-oriented, depending on what couples think should be spelled out and on what they want. Now if they don't know what they want, then perhaps they don't need one."

Love sometimes conquers all, with couples foregoing their sizeable inheritance and a prenup in favor of their betrothed. "Of course when the first grandchild comes, everything is forgiven. The new grandparents give in," he smiles.

And yet, Rondain says he has seen a lot of marriages from mixed social classes flounder despite the iron-clad prenup. "It's not just a matter of money, it's got nothing to do with property. It's really more about how different the values are between economic levels."

But Rondain, 42, who got married in 1987 to another lawyer, says he'd encourage his three children aged 13, 9 and 3 to enter into a marriage settlement should the time come. "Not that I'm rich," he quips.

The joshing that he gets for putting a damper on romance and relationships by injecting the wary cynicism of a prenup he has learned to live with and treat lightly. "Oh, I don't lose sleep over it," Rondain says. "No guilt at all. People are more pragmatic these days and in fact, when they come to consult me, 99 percent of the time, they've already decided that they want to do it."

Over the years and through the annulment cases he has handled, Rondain has observed what he considers the elements of a good marriage: "First, there must be a lot of love. Second, enough money to support the family because when you're starving, it will come to a point that couples would go for each other's throat. Third, you have to be friends and not just lovers because the sex won't be there after some time so you need the friendship to sustain you. You must have respect for each other. And well, having children helps."

He has no prenup to back up his own marital bonds, but Rondain confides that his is a happy and satisfying union. His secret? "Oh, I give my wife Cielo everything she wants," he laughs.

Pinoy Connection
By Joy Rojas
Photographs by Roger Carpio

Mr. B on Mr. B

SINGING is second nature to Filipinos, and as noted American ballet coach Robert Barnett discovered through firsthand experience, so is dancing. "Oh, yes, absolutely," declares Barnett, who had the pleasure of working with premiere Pinoy dancers Maniya Barredo, Nicolas Pacana, and Maiqui and Mia Manosa when he served as Artistic Director of the Atlanta Ballet from 1962 to 1994. "They're incredible. They're very talented, so dedicated to what they're doing, and very easy to work with. They have soul when they dance." Resident dancers from the Philippine Ballet Theater (PBT) then should have no problem performing "Serenade," "Concerto Barocco" and "Who Cares?", three ballets by renowned American choreographer George Balanchine at the Main Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines on June 20-24, 2002. Hailed as the most influential and prolific ballet choreographer of the 20th century, Balanchine is credited for creating "plotless" or abstract dances, and fusing modern concepts into classical ideas—elements which Filipinos both on and off the stage apparently enjoy. "Every time I've been here, we've had full houses of very enthusiastic audiences," reports Barnett, who presented ballets in the country before, including Balanchine's "Serenade" with the PBT in 1998. "They're a knowledgeable audience, they know what they're seeing and have wonderful taste. I think they like the more flamboyant pieces, pieces that show off a lot of technique."

Prior to staging Balanchine's ballets, Barnett starred in many of them with no less than the master choreographer at the helm. The two met in 1949 when Barnett, a dancer who trained under famous mentor Bronislava Nijinska and performed with the original Ballet Russe in Europe, joined the New York City Ballet where Balanchine was Artistic Director for 35 years. A genius in the true sense of the word (he could complete a 20-minute ballet in a week's time and possessed the vision to capture depth and height through the most innovative of steps), Balanchine was also extremely shy and soft-spoken. "I never, ever heard him raise his voice," affirms Barnett. Nevertheless, "Mr. B," as Balanchine was affectionately called by the company, always drew the best out of his dancers, like Barnett whom he specifically created roles for in "Stars & Stripes" and "The Nutcracker." "He never put you down or made you feel insecure," he muses fondly of his mentor. "It was exciting to work with him."

Is Barnett, who is also referred to as "Mr. B" by his students, anything like the late, great "Mr. B"? "In terms of personality and how I teach, yes," says Barnett, a recipient of numerous awards for dance and currently Master Teacher for South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts in Greenville, South Carolina, USA. "I

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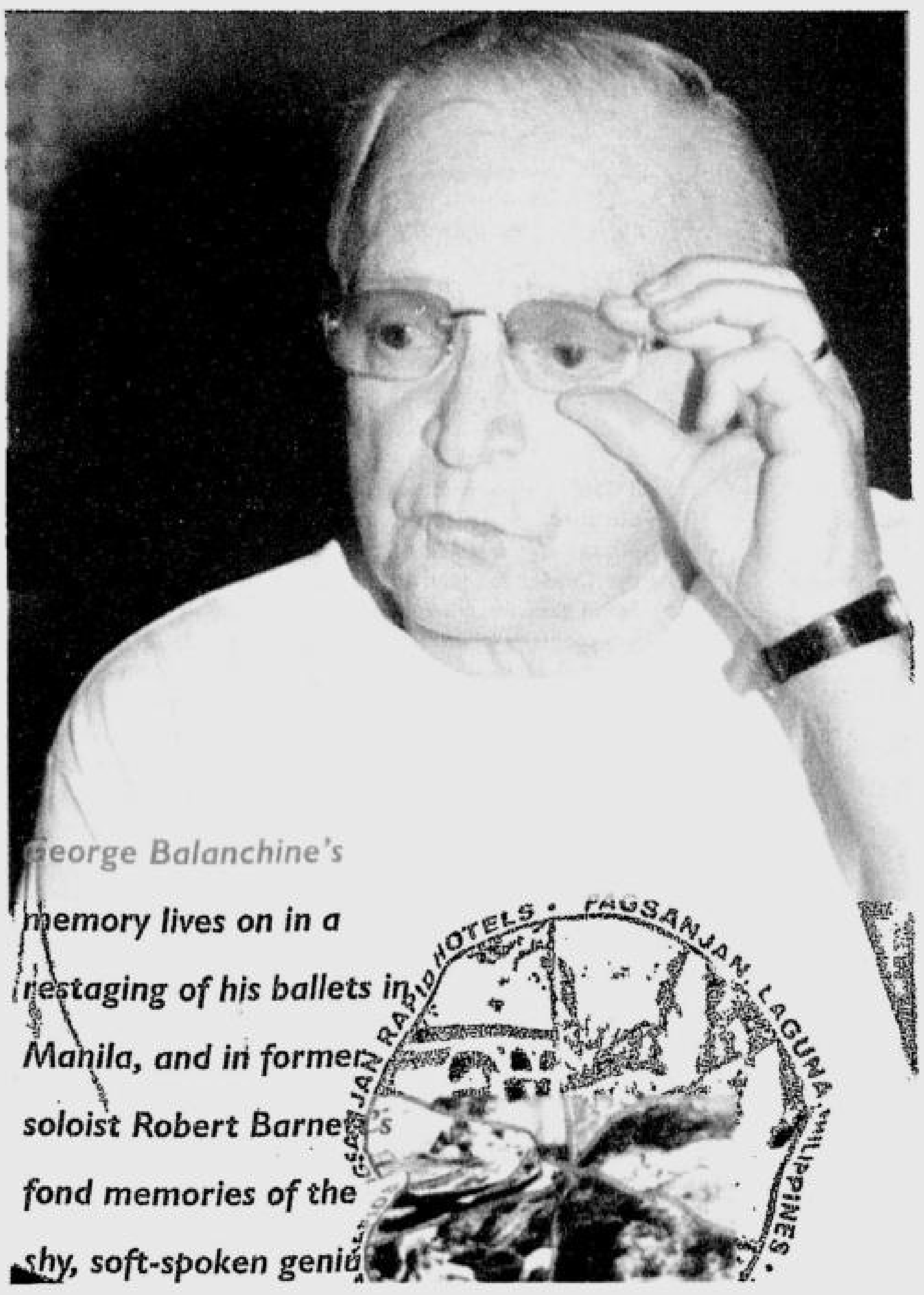

George Balanchine's memory lives on in a restaging of his ballets in Manila, and in former soloist Robert Barnett's fond memories of the shy, soft-spoken genius

JAN RAPID HOTELS • PAGSANJAN, LAGUNA, PHILIPPINES

First Person

By Flerida Ruth P. Romero

The Recycling of a Supreme Court Justice

TWENTY years of my life were spent in the placid groves of the academe as law professor and director of the UP Law Center; then the demanding 1986 Constitutional Commission (CONCOM) as secretary-general; the daunting Office of the President as special assistant to President Corazon C. Aquino and finally, the most challenging of all, the Supreme Court of the Philippines. Never did I apply for any of these positions. Now I can vividly see how I was being guided every step of the way to prepare me for the next move in my career path. As I embarked on each novel adventure, I felt unequal to the new challenges. What was clear to me was that behind each challenge was an opportunity to serve. So I continued relentlessly doing my duty.

Of one thing I was sure. Retirement or no, my life of service would continue. Avenues would open up so I could utilize my physical energies (with all faculties unimpaired and fully functioning), my intellect and the vast judicial training and experience I had undergone in the Supreme Court!

Six months into retirement, the "call to arms" came, unbidden and unsought. A letter from the legal adviser of the International Labor Organization (ILO) was deviously coursed through the Supreme Court, once, twice, before it got into my hands. Would I please submit my curriculum vitae posthaste as my name was going to be considered at the next session of the governing body to fill the vacancy in the Administrative Tribunal as its seventh member, the first Filipino to be nominated?

Suddenly, the veil lifted and I understood why 45 years ago, I was impelled to make a decision to specialize in Labor Relations Law. The foundation was being laid. Block by block, the structure was taking shape until finally, the edifice that was the ILO materialized.

It was as if I had never left the Supreme Court. The seven of us, of different nationalities, were assigned cases to decide. The administrative tribunal serves as the ultimate appellate body to resolve disputes between a UN agency, on the one hand, and its employee or groups of employees on the other. Our draft decisions were then circulated among the others for discussion in panel or *en banc* sessions. This time, however, I had to view issues from a global perspective and master case law and jurisprudence that had evolved for many decades.

Suddenly, an invitation came to join the counterpart administrative tribunal of the Asian Development Bank here in Manila. It would not be any different from my work in the ILO Tribunal.

For the author, it came in an already eventful [illegible] challenge [illegible]

At present, I have my hands full, not only with such adjudicatory work but also with international commercial arbitration cases that have been brought before me. I also get a sense of satisfaction being involved in the judicial reform mission of the Supreme Court. Twice a week, I attend meetings of its Committee on the Revision of the Rules of Court as consultant.

We are currently amending the rules applicable in family courts to such incidents of marriage as annulment, declarations of nullity, legal separation, separation of property and summary proceedings.

Much awaited are the trailblazing rules on domestic violence. All set for submission to the Supreme Court *en banc* are new rules pertaining to juveniles in conflict with the law, voluntary and involuntary commitment of minors, and domestic and inter-country adoptions.

As a loyal and grateful alumnus of my alma mater, the School of Law of Indiana University which recently awarded me a Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa* degree, I heeded its call to be a member of its board of visitors. I have since attended its annual meetings.

In my valedictory speech delivered on the occasion of my retirement two years ago, my concluding statement was: "In the years ahead, your faith will sustain me as I pick my way through less traveled paths, for, God willing, I shall cover many more miles before I sleep."

Unknowingly, I was charting the directions my life would henceforth take. Three elements are to be found in that farewell statement. First, no longer would I tread the traditional or conventional road but the "less traveled path" which are not my words but that of a more illumined sage, Robert Frost. On hindsight, how was I to know that I would trek a geographically "less traveled route"?

Second, when I uttered the caveat "God willing," it was with a deep awareness that, as the proverb goes, "Man proposes but God disposes." In our lives, it sometimes happens that no matter how hard you try to attain your ambition or work for a goal, you always seem to be thwarted. Well-meaning friends may have comforted you with the Filipino adage, *"Kung hindi uukol, hindi bubukol."*

In my case, throughout my life, I have never forced my way through the thorny thickets of events and circumstances. In fact, contrary to what guidance and management counselors advise, I never drew up a timeframe or a PERT-CPM chart to reach short and long-term goals, as did some of my college classmates. Incidentally, I belong to the University of the Philippines Law Class '52, which counts such stellar celebrities as Joker Arroyo, Estelito P. Mendoza, the late Chief Justice Marcelo B. Fernan, Justice Florentino P. Feliciano of the World Trade Organization, among others. I would hear them comparing notes, thus: "By year 19 so-and-so, I shall be the mayor of my town or governor of my province; then move on to being a congressman, a senator and ultimately, the President of the Philippines." Another, of a more intellectual bent, would say: "I'll beat you to the presidency but I'll be a UP president first, then secretary of education, whichever comes first." Nobody seemed to aspire to be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Me, I just listened to them in awe for, truth to tell, all my time was consumed just keeping up with endless assignments and digesting cases for myself—and for all those future presidents who would frantically borrow my notes before the start of classes!

This is not to say that I was sailing rough seas rudderless or sans compass. I have been taught since childhood to always do my duty by my duty, whatever it is at the moment, and leave the rest to God. For instance, how and where I would apply my law after graduation, I could not say. But I entertained absolutely no doubt that I would be guided every step of the way by the Omniscient One—as long as I have my priorities in life straight, my sense of values in order, my idealism intact and my faith in God Almighty unwavering.

To abbreviate my story, when I received a fellowship grant from Indiana University, the same school where my mother and sister were already taking up graduate studies, I had to make a crucial decision. What field of law shall I specialize in? If I were after a lucrative law practice, I could opt for corporation law. But my mother and I asked ourselves: "Is that all there is to life? Money?" In what area could I serve best and make a difference in the lives of the people I work with? With this criterion in mind, I decided to take my Master of Laws in Labor and Industrial Relations.

Armed with my masteral degree, my first job was at the UP Labor Education Center, now the School of Labor and Industrial Relations (SOLAIR), where I trained and taught labor leaders and management men. After 10 years, I transferred to the College of Law. The first subject I handled was, not surprisingly, Labor Law and later, Civil Law. Then followed the journey to the Supreme Court.

Today, my family and friends tell me that it looks like I have not retired after all. I have just been "recycled." I know that as long as there is work to do, there can be no retirement. To quote Robert Frost again:

> *"The woods are lovely, dark and deep,*
> *But I have promises to keep,*
> *And miles to go before I sleep,*
> *And miles to go before I sleep."*

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Grateful

Memories of being loved at our most unlovable, obnoxious and unrepentant moments keep us from being embittered and angry. Indeed, "healing happens not just when we focus on the problem, but when we get in touch with the love we have received"

SAYING "thank you" is good for your health. If you find it difficult to say these words, perhaps you are sick.

At the Center for Migrant Youth where I now live and work, I have encountered all kinds of embittered people, especially children and youth (ages 15-21), who remember nothing about receiving love in their growing years. All they remember are being orphaned and given away to strangers, being neglected, rejected and abused by adults, or running away and roaming the streets, sleeping on sidewalks and under bridges, and selling junk along the *riles* in Divisoria. They have no happy memories of people who cared about them, who asked about their needs and listened to their pain. Embittered people who have no vivid memories of having received love usually harden into cold, arrogant and ungrateful characters. All they want to talk about is how badly the world has been treating them, how nasty they feel about everything and everybody (the government, the Church, the rich, the poor, the military, the terrorists, the Americans). Even God gets blamed. Then they complain about their arthritis, allergy, insomnia, palpitations, eczema, ulcers and all sorts of symptoms, lamenting, "My life is one big mistake!"

How sick and sickening they've become! They clench their fists, in terrible tension, refusing to relax and let go and refusing to smile.

But once they are made to remember the times when they felt most loved and affirmed, even in their ugliest and darkest moments, they slowly unclench their fists and begin to grow. Indeed, "healing happens not just when we focus on the problem, but when we get in touch with the love we have received."

That is why in my ministry for deeply wounded people, especially children and youth, my single most important goal is to give each angry, hungry, broken and cold-hearted person a reason to be grateful for the times he or she has received my gift of patience and forgiveness precisely when he/she was most unlovable, obnoxious and unrepentant. Indeed, it's a once in a lifetime experience that wounded persons will never forget as part of their grateful memories.

And when they grow old, they will not grow old like some sick, sickening and unsmiling *Lolo* or *Lola*. Rather, they will grow old gracefully, remembering the times when they were loved even in their ugliest and darkest moments. And they will remember that, indeed, God loves us at least as much as the person who loves us most.

Do you remember the Gospel story about the healing of the 10 lepers (Lk. 17)? One of them came back to thank Jesus. The nine others did not return. The ungrateful ones were Jews, perhaps saying to themselves, "We deserve to be treated well because we are Jews anyway." The Samaritan was grateful because he knew that he received a gift he did not deserve. All his life, he would be remembered as the blind Samaritan who remained grateful remembering the times when Jesus loved and healed him even in his ugliest and darkest moment.

Yes, whenever you remember the times you received love even in your most unlovable moment, your face glows and your heart says, "Thank you." But when you can no longer find it in your heart to say "thank you," perhaps you are sick. Please see your physician.

* * *

Today is the Feast of Corpus Christi (Body of Christ). Instead of focusing on the "static" image of the Whole Unbroken Bread on the altar or inside the monstrance, we turn our gaze to the "dynamic" image of our lives as "bread-broken-and-shared" for the nourishment and healing of others.

Marathon Mission Update (Please review The Word, **SIM**, 19 May 2002):

Before June 12, we need infant and junior things like diapers, used clothing, powdered milk, baby food, biscuits, candles, used toys, vitamins, etc.

Before June 15, we need sandwiches for street kids around the Santo Niño Parish Church patio.

Drop them off at 103 Cordillera, St., SMH, Quezon City (tel. 732-8268).

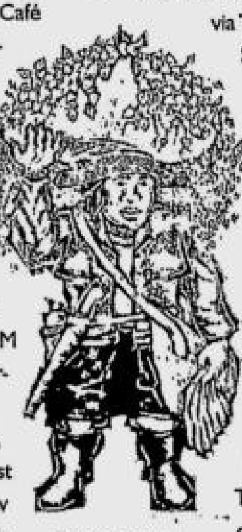
This Week

Art

Gemini, a group exhibit that seeks to explore the integration of duality through form, color and texture at the lobby Art Café of the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila until June 9.

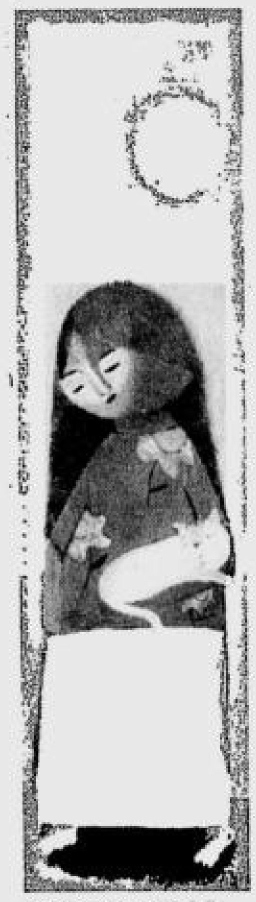
Al Perez will hold a solo exhibit **Old Churches, Atbp.** at 139 Art Gallery, 4L, SM Megamall A. The show runs daily until June 6.

Joel Mendez's **Famous Faces** acrylic works exhibit can be viewed at the SM Megamall Art Center, 4L SM Megamall A, until June 9. For inquiries, call 687-7425.



"Kangkong Woman" by Raul Agner

Drawings, Raul Agner's first one-man show of pen and ink drawings, is on exhibit at The Drawing Room, G/F Metrostar Bldg., 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City, until June 5. For details, call 897-6990 or 897-7877.



"Feline Familiair" by Romeo R. Forbes

Mutual Individuality, an exhibit by Romeo R. Forbes, Jr. and Roldan C. Ventura at the Red Dot Gallery and Restaurant at 100 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati. Exhibit runs until June 7. For inquiries, call 816-2877.

Our Country, an exhibit of Israel's daily life in black and white photographs by Alex Levac, will be shown at the Chefs Ave. of the Festival Mall until June 1-13. It can also be viewed at Plaridel Hall, University of the Philippines, from June 14-28 and at the Metropolitan Museum from July 2-August 26.

Music

MTV Philippines honors the best in music video-making with **MTV Pilipinas 2002** on June 6 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio Global City. This year promises to be an even better show with more guest performers and celebrity presenters gracing the show. One new category also makes its debut, the Most Favorite Love Ballad. This award will be voted by industry judges along with the awards for Best Director and Best Video.

Concert at the Park pays tribute to some of the outstanding talents in the local performing scene who are alumni of the Philippine High School for the Arts, which is marking its silver anniversary this month. Tonight, the works of alumnus Cris Borela brings to the fore the innate musical talent of Filipinos featuring the Philippine Madrigal Singers. Concert at the Park is held every Sunday, 6 p.m. at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium, Manila. Free admission.

Philippine queen of soul **Jaya** and comedian **Nanette Inventor** performs on June 6, 8 p.m., for a scintillating evening of fun, music and laughter at the Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental. For ticket inquiries, call 750-8888 ext. 2446.

The Philippine Madrigal Singers will be holding their **North American Tour 2002 farewell performances** at the Philamlife Auditorium on June 8 and 9, 7:30 p.m. The two-night musical affair will showcase a variety of Madrigal-inspired vocal concertos which the choral group will perform for choral communities in the US and Canada. Tickets are available at TicketWorld outlets and Tower Records.

Paco Park presents the **UP College of Music Rondalla** as it brings color and depth to Philippine music under the direction of Edna Culig on June 7, 6 p.m. at Paco Park, San Marcelino, Manila. Admission is free.

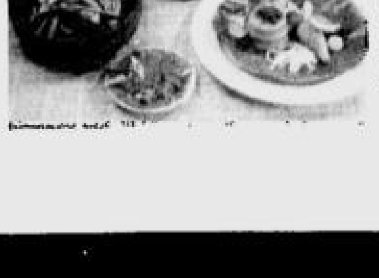
Cinema

The Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Embassy of India present **Bollywood & Beyond,** a sampling of classic Indian cinema from June 5-9 at the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino. Admission is free. For group reservations and other inquiries, call CCP Film at 832 1125 locals 1704 and 1705 or 832 5120 (direct).

¡Átame! **(Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!).** A Pedro Almodovar film about Ricky (Antonio Banderas), a released mental patient who hunts down Marina, a pornography film star he once had relations with, and tries to convince her to be his wife. She is a bit reluctant, so he ties her up. Will this approach endear him to her? In Spanish with English subtitles. June 8, 5 p.m. at the Salon de Actos of Instituto Cervantes de Manila, 2515 Leon Guinto cor. Estrada Sts., Malate, Manila. For details, call 526-1482 to 85.

Food

Fiesta Filipino, a buffet celebrating the savory taste of true Filipino cuisine at the Raphael Café-Restaurant at the Manila Galleria Suites in Ortigas Center until June 9. For reservations, call Raphael Café-Restaurant at 633-7111 ext. 7416/7440.



Fiesta Filipino at Raphael Cafe-Restaurant, Manila Galleria Suites

In observance of the Chinese Dragon Boat Festival, Shang Palace presents two kinds of **specialty rice dumplings** until June 15. Diners may also avail themselves of two family-style Dragon Boat menus good for at least six persons. For inquiries and advance orders, call 840-0884.

The New World Renaissance Hotel's Bocarinos restaurant invites diners to a gastronomic tour of one of Italy's most fabled regions via **Travel to Tuscany** from June 3-30. Sample *Agnello en Salsa, Coniglio alla Cacciatora, Polpettine di Risso al Sugo, Latte Cotto, Castagnaccio,* among other delicious fare for lunch and dinner. For reservations, call 811-6888 ext. 3318.

Atbp

The **Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts** located at the Bon Apetit, 3/F, Shangri-La Plaza Mall announces its classes for June. The schedule is as follows: My Excellent Pies (June 3); The Art of Making Delicious Pancit (June 12); Gourmet Style Chinese 101 (June 15); Simply the Loaves (June 17); Gravlax—Sweet Cured Salmon (June 19); Trendy Salads (June 21); Korean 101 (June 22); All New Pates and Terrines (June 25); More of My Favorite Cheesecakes (June 28), and Vietnamese 101 (June 29). For inquiries, call 633-5162.

The island of Corregidor is the theme of the **on-the-spot photo contest** on June 8 and 9, open to amateur and professional photographers residing in the Philippines. Interested parties can visit the Federation of the Philippine Photographers Foundation at 7/F Comfoods Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Chino Roces Ave., Makati or call 843-5341 or 813-7420.

Learn the basics of travel writing with traveler and writer Kristine Fonacier in **Travel Writing Workshop** on June 5, 13, 19 and 26 at the Filipinas Heritage Library. Workshop fee is P2500 inclusive of materials and certificates. Limited slots only.

PETA artist-teacher Jack Yabut will be holding a **lecture on theater centers in Japan** on June 7 at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute. Yabut will discuss organizational structures and unique features of small and medium scale theater centers in Japan, among others. For inquiries, call 832-1125 local 1607.

Dramatis Personae announces **open auditions** for its plays to be included in its 15th theater season: Akira Kurosawa's "Rashomon," August Strindberg's "A Dream Play," Henrik Ibsen's "Brand," and Fernando de Roxas' "Celestina." Auditions will be held daily until June 9 at Unit 1005 Garden Island Tower 2, 34 N. Domingo St., New Manila, QC. For its off-season touring productions, DP will bring to different schools, colleges and universities in Metro Manila Bienvenido M. Noriega, Jr.'s "Juan Luna," and Victor Hugo's "Hunchback of Notre Dame." For inquiries about the open auditions, school tours and group reservations, call 722-4205 or email dramatis_personae@email.com or visit www.softrigger.com/dp.

Children who want to learn how to cook in small, hands-on classes can now sign up for Vicky Veloso-Barrera's **Tiny Kitchen cooking classes.** Tiny Kitchen 1 for 5 to 7-year olds will be held every Saturday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. while the Tiny Kitchen 2 class for kids aged 8 and above will be held every Saturday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. Classes are held at Vicky's residence at 520 Protacio Street, Pasay City. For inquiries call 843-1303, 844-7917 or 0917-618-4612.

Join the Foundations of Leadership Excellence, a two-day seminar for 18 years old and above on June 14-15 and 8th Intensive on June 30 to July 2. For more details, call 687-0510 or 632-7553.

Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang has extended its shopping and dining hours by one hour from Friday to Sunday and during holidays to give more time to its late-evening patrons on weekends. Closing time now is 10 p.m. For details, call the mall's marketing division office at 850-3517.

X-manila

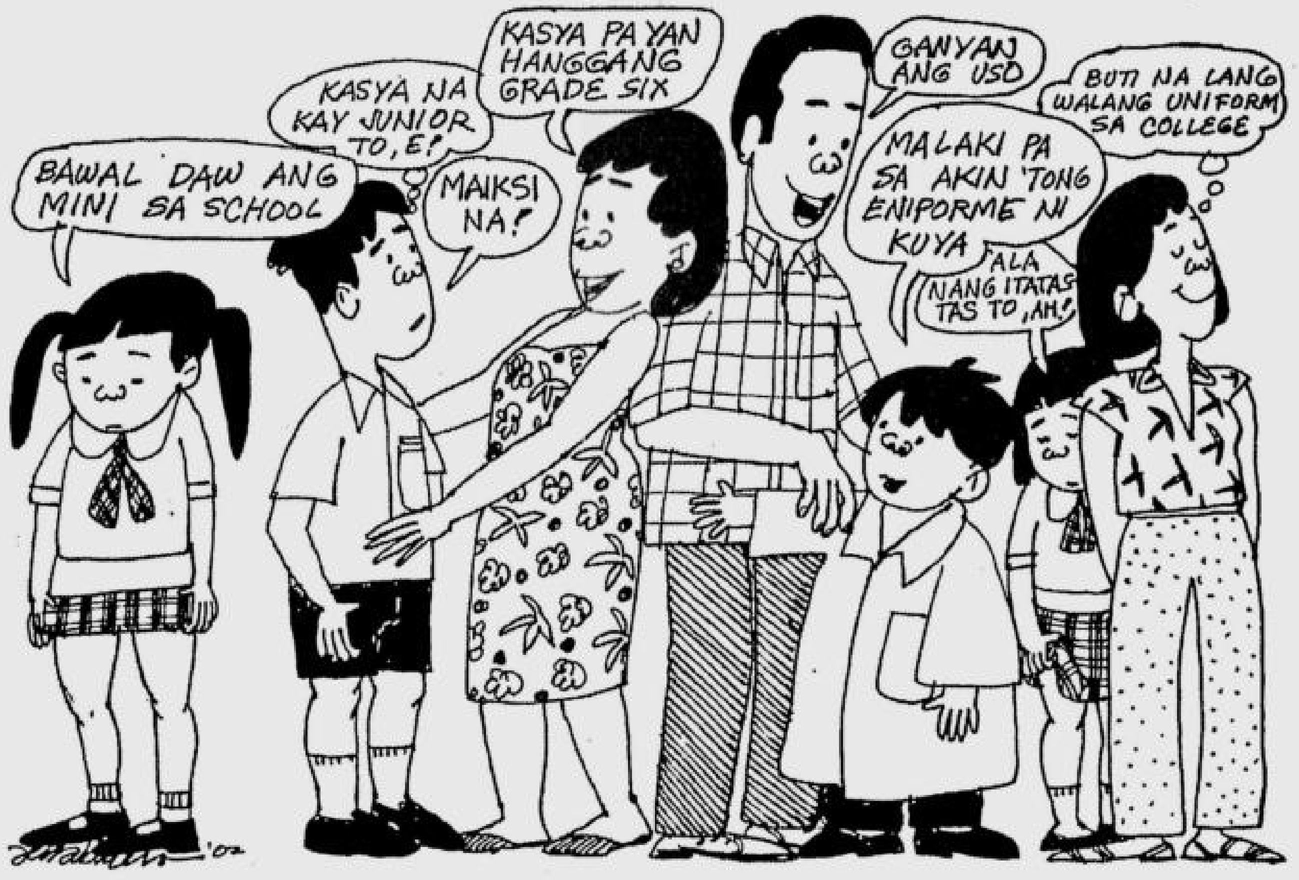
Medical practitioners in Central Luzon are invited to attend the **9th postgraduate course of the American College of Chest Physicians** (Philippine Chapter) on June 7 and 8 at the Benigno Aquino Center in Luisita, Tarlac City. Prominent pulmonary experts will lecture on a wide spectrum of topics which will include advances in asthma, malignancy, COPD, pneumonia and TB. For inquiries, call tel. 724-8536.

Pan de San Antonio: The Cavite's Pan Fiesta, a bread festival to be held at San Antonio de Padua Parish Church in Cavite City on June 12-13. Highlights include *Pandekarakol* (a street dancing and parade with different kinds of bread as theme) and Music a la carte (a night of music featuring various artists at Jardin ni San Antonio). For details, call (046) 431-1410 or (046) 431-2429.

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Uniform



BAWAL DAW ANG MINI SA SCHOOL
KASYA NA KAY JUNIOR TO, E!
MAIKSI NA!
KASYA PA YAN HANGGANG GRADE SIX
GANYAN ANG USO
MALAKI PA SA AKIN 'TONG ENIPORME NI KUYA
ALA NANG ITATAS TAS TO, AH!
BUTI NA LANG WALANG UNIFORM SA COLLEGE

A Silver Harvest

Gantimpala Theater Foundation recently staged its 25th anniversary with a gathering of Gantimpala alumni. The get-together was a preview of a special anniversary show, "A Silver Harvest," at the CCP Main Theater in July. For its 25th season, Gantimpala is presenting the classic plays "Kanser," "El Filibusterismo," "Florante at Laura," "Ibong Adarna," among others. The anniversary show will feature Gantimpala's valuable contribution to Philippine theater, classic and award-winning theater productions, a medley of theater-inspired songs, a stellar line-up of theater, film and TV actors who have graced the GTF's stage and the unveiling of the new Gantimpala logo. The late Rene Requiestas and Ray Ventura, who were once actors of Gantimpala, will be honored on the July 26 anniversary show.

The Gantimpala Theater family

...from page 5

think you can get something out of a dancer with sugar more than salt. You can be firm about what you want but you don't have to scream, threaten or scare someone to death. That's why when I was Director of the Atlanta Ballet for 36 years, my dancers stayed with me for years and years. The company was like their home." As to whether he could come up with brilliant ballets in a snap, Barnett, whose own ballets employ more contemporary moves, laughingly concedes, "Well, I'm just not that talented as he was. Nobody is that talented."

A tap dancer by training, Barnett was all of 21 when he chanced upon ballet in, of all places, Japan during World War II. Encouraged by a Japanese choreographer to pursue the craft, he flew back to the States and studied ballet under the GI Bill's educational program. Although it's been almost 30 years since the sprightly 77-year-old last performed a pirouette before an enraptured audience, Barnett is not about to exit from the scene just yet. "I sit there and dance every step with my dancers," beams this teacher. "I want them to do the best they can do. I think that's my role now."

Barnett shows a PBT dancer the moves

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

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Computer Fundamentals/Basic Programming
Dental Assistant
Diesel Mechanic
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HIGH SCHOOL (YEAR 1 TO 4)

Survivors' Tales

By Alya B. Honasan

His Sh[illegible] Goes On

Patrick Uy was clicking away at a bride and groom while his home burned a few blocks down the road, but putting happiness first is all in a day's work for this premiere wedding photographer

JOHNNY VILLENA

IT WAS about 2 o'clock in the afternoon of April 5, 2002, and Patrick Uy, Manila's premiere wedding photographer, was shooting Phatcharin Wichianchot in her suite at the Richmonde Hotel in Pasig. The beautiful Thai bride was in Manila to marry Filipino-Chinese businessman Dennis Tan, and Uy had been booked some six months in advance for this special day.

It was then that Uy received a call from his assistant, who was supposed to meet him at Mary the Queen Church. The news: Uy's residence on the sixth floor of the Meridien condominium in Greenhills was on fire.

"My first question was, 'Where are the kids?'" Uy recalls. Fortunately, the Uys were leaving the next day for a beach trip, and his wife Evelyn had taken the morning off from work to pick up some supplies. She arrived at the unit five minutes before the smoke appeared, and was able to herd their three sons Christopher, Gregory and Timothy out of the building.

"And then, I thought, should I leave this wedding?" Uy says. "I could have left everything in the hands of my team and my partner, Cox Aban." But then, there was nothing he could have done about the fire. "I had been commissioned to do this so many months before, and I was looking forward to shooting in that new wedding venue in Quezon City, Ferndale Gardens. The photographer is there to solve problems, not add to them and dampen the spirit of a happy day."

So, while his family had been safely brought to his mother's home and his condo burned to ashes, Uy kept working until he had taken a proper portrait of the couple at their reception before bolting. "A wedding is like a show, and the show must go on. *Tuloy ang kasal.*"

People who learned about it later were amazed at Uy's professionalism, but he claims he was being practical. He tried not to tell the bride and groom, but they found out anyway. "They were surprised that I stayed that long. Well, the groom's mother was wondering why I kept looking at my watch. She probably thought I had another wedding, until she found out my house was on fire!"

The portrait Uy was shooting that fateful afternoon of newlyweds Dennis Tan and Phatcharin Wichianchot at Ferndale Gardens

It was 6 p.m. by the time Uy made it to the Meridien. The family lost everything in the twin two-bedroom units—clothes, passports (fortunately, other important papers were in the bank), and Uy's "second babies," a collection of cameras that included precious Leicas he had saved up to buy. "For the whole week after that, even my underpants were borrowed from my brother." In retrospect, Uy was especially proud of his eldest son Christopher, who had the presence of mind to call security so other tenants could be informed. "That's when I knew he was not a little boy anymore," beams Dad amidst the clutter of his new studio-in-progress.

The cause of the fire was chemical, Uy reveals. There was a renovation going on next door in the unit of Arsenio and Diana Ng, and a worker lit a cigarette that ignited the highly flammable thinner. His belongings were insured, but what riles Uy to this day is the fact that his neighbors never showed any concern. "Absolutely no word," he says. "The DILG had been looking for them to make a statement for a month. They seemed unconcerned about the property, whether they had caused anybody any harm. I think their contractor is responsible for this, so the least they can do is show up, ask if anything happened to the other people in the building—simple humane gestures."

What followed in the days after was a flood of calls from Uy's past brides, asking if their negatives were safe. "They are," he assures, "because they were all safely filed in my Makati office." More touching were calls from fellow photographers, colleagues from the Advertising Photographers of the Philippines (APP), of which Uy is president, and other crack shots like Wig Tysmans, Raymund Isaac and Tom Epperson, who offered everything from equipment to studio space. "It was very nice to know that you had peers who are ready to assist you."

Uy, a management graduate of the Ateneo who worked in the travel business first, calls photography "the only one among several hobbies that survived." His first stint was discouraging, when he took rolls of outdoor shots only to be paid P200 for the effort. He considers advertising photographer Emil Davocol a "mentor" who showed him that it could be a lucrative living. Ten years ago, Uy got his big break shooting Richard Gomez on a rowboat for the Bench campaign.

His first wedding, on the other hand, was a "PR stint," shooting the wedding of his wife Evelyn's sister. His first professional stint was the wedding of Edwin Tang, son of Jimmy Tang of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, a huge affair that brought Uy a slew of contacts.

Today, Uy does about two weddings a week; come June, January and December, that number can hit four. "My wife is the one who has to understand the most," he says of Evelyn. "She knows that there are so many weekend affairs I have to miss because I have to shoot a wedding that Sunday." Uy actually tried to put a premium on his loss of family time by raising his price; but the contracts only snowballed. "I guess they thought it was an indication of quality."

Actually, it is. Uy never scrimps on film, using anywhere between 25 and 50 rolls of 36 shots, taking between 500 and 1,200 pictures. For huge affairs like the upcoming Mikey Arroyo-Angela Montenegro wedding, he's bringing 100 rolls and a team of about seven photographers, to cover everything from the Lubao wedding to the Malacañang cocktails.

And how much does he cost? "I can do a small affair for as low as P25,000," Uy assures. The service is the same, but only the trimmings vary; a wonderful album of 100 pictures and a portrait to cherish can cost from P65,000 to P85,000.

Why weddings? "I love the happy high," he says, "the adrenaline rush. Also, I'm able to work with the best in the business—designers, stylists, make-up artists. The energy is always good. I think I'm addicted, in fact," he laughs. "When there's no wedding, I get fidgety." He's booked a year in advance in many cases, and it's always first come, first served—no matter who you are, once Uy commits, that's it.

The fire was a "demarcation," Uy says. "That's when I realized that material things are just that, and you can move on. I'm a compulsive shopper—I shop more than my wife!—and I used to be so acquisitive. Now, you realize, as long as you have your family, a few things are enough."

The fire has made him more concerned about fire safety, especially now that he is having both his home and a new nearby studio renovated. "If you live in a high rise, take precautions, know your exits." He has also become rabidly anti-smoking. "I don't smoke, but I'm a really no-smoking person now. Because of one cigarette, my life changed. I don't mind smokers if they're responsible, but there's a place for it, and we have to ingrain that in people's minds or we'll never really progress."

If there's one thing Uy is more appreciative of now, they're cellular phones. "I received an update every 10 minutes during the fire." Evelyn worried that he might be shaking, distracted and unable to take good shots during the wedding, but instead, Uy says, "I put my all into those portraits. It was, after all, a fun affair, and it was still a privilege and a pleasure to be sharing that day with them to chronicle the event for them." If the lovely portrait on this page is proof, then for Patrick Uy, happiness is all in a day's work.